

THE TIMES Tomorrow

First knight
The Times Profile of Sir John Gielgud at 80 (below)



World at their feet
John Hennessy previews Torvill and Dean's attempt on the World Ice Dance Championship

Out of this world
Michael Hamlyn on India's Cape Canaveral

Small World
Books: Antonia Byatt reviews David Lodge's new campus novel *Small World*. Stuart Evans on Nadine Gordimer's collection of short stories.

In a flap
Paul Pickering pays another visit to Hector, the raven behind bars.

Changes for Stock Exchange

Sweeping changes are on the way to the internal structure of the Stock Exchange, after the ruling council considered the options yesterday. One proposal is the sale of "seats", making market entry expensive for outsiders. However, the Government may be reluctant to support such a system.

Leading article, page 15
Business news, page 19

Pretoria anger

South Africa last night rebuffed a conditional offer to withdraw Cuban troops from Angola and condemned the "unacceptable language" of the communiqué issued by Cuba and Angola.

Earlier report, page 8

Niece in West

Frau Ingrid Berg, niece of the East German Prime Minister who sought asylum in the West German Embassy in Prague, has arrived in Frankfurt with her family.

Page 10

Doonican ban

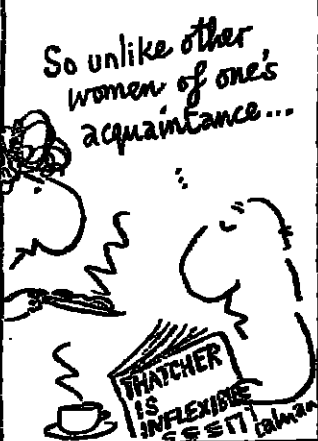
The Aboriginal owners of Ayers Rock in Australia have refused permission for the BBC and Val Doonican, the singer, to film programmes at the rock.

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VIP visitor

Mr Georgi Kononenko, the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, is to visit Britain from March 27 to 30, giving further credence to an improvement in Anglo-Soviet relations.

Page 8



Aintree arson

Becher's Brook has been damaged by fire, 12 days before the Grand National. Last year, the fence was almost destroyed by fire.

Francombe fined

John Francombe, the champion National Hunt jockey, was fined a maximum £2,500 by the stewards of the Jockey Club for a riding offence at Newbury.

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Leader page, 15
Letters: On pit strike, from Mr J. F. Chaffield, and others; fuel for poor, from Mr R. Berthoud

Leading articles: Denning's speech; fuel costs; City organization

Features, pages 12-14
The radical at the Institute of Directors; Yi-yi-yuppie, Gary Hart's young following; Peter Kellner votes for common-sense democracy; Wednesday Page: ready-wrapped child-minding

Obituary, page 16
Mr B. W. Anderson, Professor Arthur Smiles, Miss Gillian Mackay

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Leaders fall out with EEC on brink of deal

From Julian Haviland and Ian Murray in Brussels

The European Community heads of government stumbled when success seemed to be in their grasp at the Brussels summit early yesterday evening. Two days and a night of intensive negotiation had yielded progress on all related problems, notably control of the Community budget and the size of Britain's contributions to it. In return, there was provisional agreement on increasing the Community's resources by nearly £4,000m a year from 1986.

There was also sympathetic support for a proposal which would have allowed the Irish dairy industry to increase production, while other countries cut back. But before the Irish Taoiseach, Dr Garret FitzGerald, could accept the offer made to him by the French president from the chair, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and several other prime ministers objected to it so strongly that he walked out and refused to return.

From then on, it all began to unravel. West Germany, in apparent disregard of the principles on which a solution to Britain's budget problem had been canvassed by President Mitterrand since the start of the year, made an offer which was unacceptable to Britain.

Chancellor Kohl suggested a rebate to no more than £600m in each of the next five years, with no possibility of an extension. This would be a repayment of only half the British net contribution.

Apart from the fact that, in Mrs Thatcher's eyes, it was too

small, the British had made plain from the beginning that any solution must last as long as the budgetary problems lasted, and that payments should be related to each member country's national wealth.

The German intervention brought negotiations to a halt, but after an adjournment, the British returned to the table with a counter-proposal. Mrs Thatcher said she would accept a repayment of £600m this year and £750m in 1985 on condition that agreement was reached for a permanent corrective mechanism to be in place from 1986. But this proposal found no favour.

Dr FitzGerald argued that the Irish dairy industry should be allowed to grow by 40 per cent over the next five years, rather than be reduced at all. In response, the French presidency put forward a plan which would have allowed Ireland to increase production this year by a million tonnes more than provisionally agreed.

The marginal cost for the Community of disposing of this excess milk production is about £120m of which Britain would have to pay about 7 per cent.

Irish sources said that the Taoiseach would have accepted this compromise, with a half promise of an extension in future years. But before he could respond, the Dutch, the Danes and Mrs Thatcher objected - and Dr FitzGerald walked out. He left his Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Barry, in the council to maintain a block on other agreements.

The other leaders got on with arguing how to secure a reduction in Britain's net contributions and, at the same time, about a system to ensure that any change in Britain's favour would endure.

Officials had produced various formulae during the night and morning.

The opening positions on Monday were about £300m apart. President Mitterrand, in his preliminary diplomacy, had won the agreement to offer Britain a cut of about a half in net contributions, leaving about £600m to pay.

Mrs Thatcher had said at the Athens summit in December that she would pay no more than £300m and shocked the council on Monday by refusing to budge from that figure. To try to sweeten the atmosphere, a move was then made to reach provisional agreement on increasing the Community's resources - which most other countries have been desperate to do.

Here, Mrs Thatcher made a reluctant move from her position of refusing to even consider it until there was an agreement on her budget claim and stricter control of spending.

After discussion, she agreed to support a move to increase the resources by upping the receipts from value added tax from 1 per cent to 1.4 per cent from 1986.

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Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, who shouted "Beware the Ides of March" as he left

Lebanon talks end in disarray

From Robert Fisk

The latest effort by Lebanon's rival political leaders to end the nine-year civil war and create a new government ended in almost total failure last night, with Muslim leaders walking grim-faced out of the last session of the talks, with little more than a list of good intentions to show for their nine days of talks.

All the delegates could agree on, it transpired, was a "recommendation" to form a government of national unity, a commission for national reconciliation and reform of the constitution that would meet in Beirut "within six weeks" and a "consolidation" of the already fractured ceasefire in Beirut.

As he forced his way out of the Hotel Beau Rivage at Lausanne amid hundreds of Swiss security police, reporters and camera crews, an unsmiling Mr Walid Jumblatt, eyes staring fixedly in front, shouted: "Beware the Ides of March".

Mr Jumblatt always has a noisy and rhetorical touch to his statements, but after so grave a failure at Lausanne, they are the sort of words that could have grim repercussions. Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia muslim Amal leader, forced his own way through the crowds muttering only: "It is finished, it is finished." Several heavily-armed bodyguards walked behind him, carrying suitcases.

According to *Halsbury's Laws of England*, the refusal of Holy Communion under Canon B 16 is sometimes referred to as "Lesser excommunication". The formal penalty of excommunication was once available as a penalty in the ecclesiastical courts, and although this has been abolished, an "extra-judicial declaration" of excommunication is still within a bishop's powers.

Mr Brian Hanson, legal adviser and provincial registrar to the General Synod of the Church of England, said that it was the first such case he had ever come across. The latest legal precedent was a case heard before the First World War.

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The conference's final statement reportedly included a re-confirmation of the results of the earlier talks in Geneva in which the delegates agreed on Lebanon's "Arab identity".

Delegated in Lausanne agreed that 32 people - who are unnamed and whose religion was unspecified, should sit on the commission for national reconciliation and constitutional reform, but no indication was given as to where it would meet in Beirut or whether it could be expected to sit within the next few weeks.

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Scargill resists meeting on ballot

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Sheffield

Left-wing leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday resisted moves by moderate coalfields for an executive meeting that could call a national ballot on the miners' strike.

As the stoppage entered its second week, Mr Arthur Scargill, the Union's president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, came under pressure from militant areas to reaffirm the hard-line strategy of backing strikes as they occur.

The two officials, who have sole responsibility for reconvening the executive, decided the conflicting demands from the politically divided coalfields did not warrant an emergency session.

Five moderate areas have asked for the executive to meet, including Nottinghamshire, where illegal secondary action by flying pickets from the strike bound Yorkshire area yesterday continued their campaign to "picket out" miners who have voted to work normally.

Two more areas have called for a national ballot. However six militant areas, understood to be dominated by the striking coalfields of Yorkshire, South Wales, Kent, Scotland and north Derbyshire, are urging the leadership not to waver from its March 8 decision to give official support to miners who stop work over pay and pit closures.

Mr Heathfield said: "I am contemplating no action because there seems to be a division of opinion that makes it unwise to intervene."

"I think the decision that was passed on March 8 was a very clear declaration of intent compared with the conflicting views expressed by the areas."

Mr Heathfield and Mr Scargill conferred yesterday on rival policy directions being proposed by the different areas and questioned whether it would be right to hold a national ballot in which profitable, moderate areas could combine to end the growing "strike for jobs".

Mr Heathfield asked: "Can you justifiably say to miners working in relatively successful coalfields, 'You have the right to determine whether people working in less successful coalfields can defend their jobs'?"

Moderate leaders from Nottinghamshire, North Wales, south Derbyshire and Lancashire will be angered by this assessment but it now seems unlikely that the executive will be reconvened before next week.

● The Kent miners yesterday lost their court action to ban police from stopping them travelling to picket other collieries.

Full report, page 2
Police evicted; pickets angered, page 2

Defence secrets found in call box

By Stewart Tendler
and Rodney Cowton

A document identifying 23 British and American scientists, Servicemen and officials involved in a highly-classified radar defence project has been discovered in a telephone book at Heathrow Airport.

The project, named as "Cold Witness" in the document, is so sensitive that the Pentagon will not discuss its existence.

The Ministry of Defence told *The Times*, yesterday: "You have chances on something about which we cannot really talk. I cannot even tell you what the project is about. Unfortunately it is genuinely classified."

The document was found more than two weeks ago by Mr John Johnson, a recreation centre assistant, who lives in South Benfleet, Essex. He was

waiting for his wife in one of the airport terminals and noticed the edge of a piece of paper protruding from behind the plastic back to a public telephone booth.

Mr Johnson, unable to understand the three-page document, passed it to *The Times*.

He said: "It was about nine or ten at night. The document was left unfolded. Most of it was hidden but you could see the corner of it poking out". There were only two or three people waiting for last flights to go. I did not notice anyone using the booth."

The document appears to be typewritten on white A4 paper. Handwriting on one page points out the difference in codes between dialling British numbers from the United States and within Britain.

"Cold Witness" is believed to be an advanced radar project being conducted by the United States Air Force, the United States Navy and US civilian contractors. The Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive is also involved.

The document is headed "Cold Witness" and then "Address List".

Underneath are individual telephone numbers for researchers at two American companies engaged in defence work. One is SRI International and the other is the Mitre Corporation, of Bedford, Mass.

Continued on back page, col 5

Economic growth is best since 1978

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The British economy grew by 3 per cent last year - its best performance since 1978 - to push national income above its pre-recession peak for the first time.

National income at the end of 1983 was 7.5 per cent above its trough in the spring of 1981 and 0.75 per cent higher than the spring of 1979, just before the downturn began.

These figures are based on the average measure of gross domestic product issued by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. But they conceal a marked discrepancy between the three measures - output, income and expenditure - which make up the average. In theory, all three should be equal.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, reaffirmed in his Budget speech last week that he expected the economy to grow by 3 per cent again this year.

Kenneth Flett, page 19

Hoskyns to lead directors

Mr John Hoskyns, head of Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit from 1979 to 1982, has been appointed to succeed Mr Walter Goldsmith as director-general of the Institute of Directors from July 1.

Sir John, who will have a five-year contract, previously founded and ran his own computer software company and has since become a director of ICL and several other companies.

Although once a conduit of his abrasive free enterprise message to the Prime Minister, he is seen as something of a catch for the Institute. Its influence has grown rapidly under Mr Goldsmith.

Graham Searjeant, page 14

Two barred from Communion

By Clifford Longley

A curate's wife and a country solicitor have been barred from Holy Communion in the Church of England by the Bishop of Winchester, Dr John Taylor, because of their alleged relationship.

The decision, which according to legal authorities is a form of excommunication, is apparently unprecedented in modern times in the Church of England.

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RUC officer shot unarmed man at close range, murder trial told

From Richard Ford, Belfast

An unarmed terrorist suspect was shot dead at close range by a police officer who had already killed a passenger in the man's car, a court in Belfast was told yesterday.

At the time the RUC constable was on special duty watching the man who, he believed, might be involved in a murder attempt.

Constable John Robinson, aged 29, fired 15 bullets from his pistol before allegedly reloading it and firing another four bullets at an "exceptionally close range" into the suspect's body.

His account of the shooting in Armagh City was incompatible with forensic evidence counsel for the prosecution said at Belfast Crown Court, where Constable Robinson denies murdering Seamus Grew, aged 31.

He died with a fellow member of the Irish National Liberation Army, Roderick Carroll, aged 22, when the police fired on his car near a housing estate in Armagh City 15 months ago.

Both unarmed men were shot even time by PC Robinson, whose address was given as RUC headquarters.

The prosecution alleged that PC Robinson fired 15 bullets into the passenger door killing Mr Carroll before walking around the car and firing more shots from a range of between 2ft 6in and 3ft at Mr Grew, who was unarmed and offered no resistance.

"This was deliberate shooting carried out in circumstances which must have made it clear that the deceased was not using a weapon at all," counsel alleged.

Constable Robinson's duties on that day could bring him into contact with members of the Provisional IRA who might be armed and would not hesitate to open fire on him, the court was told.

Mr Grew had not been wanted for any criminal offence but he was suspected, counsel said.

The prosecution was being brought in the full appreciation of the dangers the RUC face daily. "It is appreciated that when they go out to their duties they are facing a potential armed enemy, one who is not prepared simply to avoid capture but whose whole aim and objective is to shoot police officers when the opportunity presents itself."

The hearing continues today.

Shooting charges

Three men were accused in Belfast yesterday of attempting to murder Mr Gerry Adams, Provisional Sinn Féin MP for west Belfast, in a city centre ambush.

Gerard Welsh, aged 33, an unemployed butcher, Colin Gray, aged 27, an unemployed labourer, and John Gregg, aged 26, all from Rathcoole, Belfast, were also charged with possessing firearms and ammunition. They were remanded in custody for six days.

Mr Welsh, who was also accused of membership of the illegal Ulster Freedom Fighters between June 1983 and March 1984, appeared with Mr Gray at Belfast Magistrates' Court.

Official in court

A woman civil servant aged 22 with the Department of Health and Social Security will appear at Belfast Magistrates' Court today with her parents on charges connected with the murder of the Maze Prison official, Mr William McConnell.

Man questioned

Scotland Yard anti-terrorist squad detectives yesterday questioned a "most wanted man" about IRA activities in Britain (the Press Association reports).

1,000 more computer jobs on way

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

More than 1,000 new jobs are to be created by the American microcomputer manufacturer, Commodore, in Corby, Northamptonshire, scene of a recent British Steel plant closure.

The new plant, will require an initial £6m investment which is expected to grow to £2m.

The company has an advance factory at present employing about 200 people, of whom 70 per cent are aged under 25. A Commodore spokesman said: "They are quite suited for that kind of work. We can take more technicians than the local college can produce."

About 600 jobs will be created in the initial phase and this figure will grow to 1,000 within two years.

Two thirds of the output is destined for export to Europe, the Middle East and Australia.

Two of the company's micro-computer models will be built at the 10-acre site - the Vic 20 and the Commodore 64. These are among Britain's top-selling brands.

Fines double for straw burning

By John Young

New model by-laws to enable local authorities to restrict straw and stubble burning were published yesterday by the Government. The maximum fine is raised from £1,000 to £2,000, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, said that farmers would ignore them at their peril.

The by-laws include a ban on burning at night, at weekends and on Bank holidays, wide firebreaks to protect houses, hedgerows, trees and standing crops and a requirement that farmers incorporate the ash into the soil within 36 hours. Each fire must be restricted to an area of no more than 25 acres, with a gap between fires of at least 150 metres. They must be supervised by two responsible people, with adequate fire-fighting equipment readily available.

Mr Simon Gourlay, deputy president of the National Farmers' Union, last night welcomed the controls and urged all district councils to make arrangements to enforce the by-laws and to prosecute offenders.

The union is aware that a further rash of complaints from the public this summer will make pressures for a total ban almost irresistible.

Sale room Scottish museum pays £81,000 for statue

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Royal Scottish Museum, of Edinburgh, carried off the star piece in yesterday's sculpture sale at Christie's against fierce competition. The museum paid £81,000 (estimate £10,000 to £15,000) for a marble statue 114cms high of Arthur St Clair Anstruther Thomson as a child. He is naked apart from a little drape which he clutches over his genitals.

The young boy, with a fine head of curls, is the work of Aimé Jules Dalou and dated on a stone at his feet "Dalou 1877". Dalou came to Britain as a political refugee from the overthrow of the Paris Commune. He was an important exponent of the new naturalistic sculpture of the late century, along with Rodin.

The next highest price was £24,840 (estimate £23,000 to £28,000) for a fine pair of nineteenth century Italian marble busts of a "North African man and woman". It echoes the fine negro figures made in Venice in the previous century and the masculine figure is signed by Natale Sanavio of Padua.

The recent sharp upward swing in prices for nineteenth century bronzes was again underlined. A fine gilt bronze group of a Persian hunter on horseback with a leopard by Fred Dubouché and dated 1850, fetched £10,000 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000). A bronze bust of Semiramis by

Emile Hébert made £6,696 (estimate £1,300 to £1,800). The sale totalled £212,878 with 17 per cent unsold.

Christie's sale of English drawings included an early Constable which sold to Leggat's in line with this month's high prices for the artist. A mountainous vista entitled "Landscape from Elbow Water" and dated 1806 sold for £10,260 (estimate £4,000 to £5,000).

There were some particularly fine Callow watercolours and prices demonstrated that he is most valued when following his hero Bonington as closely as possible. His grandiose water-colour of "The Grand Canal, Venice" made £14,040 (estimate £5,000 to £7,000) to Christopher Wood while the same dealer only had to spend £8,100 (estimate £5,000 to £7,000) for his view of "Verona: Corso San' Anastasia" of 1855.

The sale totalled £244,760 with 14 per cent unsold. Australian bidding provided the highlights of Phillips sale of Victorian and topographical paintings. Two collectors fought for the star lot, both connected to the sale room by telephone from the other side of the world. As a result Eugene von Guerard's "Aborigines by a fire before Mount William" of 1892 sold for £24,200 (estimate £4,000 to £7,000).



HMS Invincible sailing home to Portsmouth yesterday. (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Invincible crew return from tour with mixed feelings

By Colin Hughes

Officers of HMS Invincible, which returned home to Portsmouth yesterday, face the task of rebuilding their ship's morale after an eight-month "fly the flag" tour in the Far East which was beset by planning difficulties, adverse home publicity and mechanical failure.

Junior ratings resented having had to carry out extra duties such as serving at cocktail parties and forming human gangways for visiting dignitaries, and having their itinerary repeatedly altered by mechanical and political hitches.

Disgruntled crew members complained that bad publicity in the British press after the ship's

stopover for repairs in Singapore brought a clampdown by officers. One rating said: "The whole point of this trip was to show Invincible off and it flew in their faces so they got shirty."

Others said that the malcontents were unused to the menial jobs expected of ordinary sailors on a big ship over a long voyage.

Commander Julian Chestnutt admitted that morale was very low when he arrived on board Invincible after she had been sailing for three months. It was four months before the crew enjoyed a full free week of shore leave in Sydney.

"Things were strained but we

have ironed it out since" Commander Chestnutt said.

One senior officer complained that on a three-day stay in Bombay he had spent one hour ashore. "All the rest of the time we were entertaining, showing off the ship to industrialists and ministers and meeting the public on open days. The lads had to do their bit too and that started the problem."

Plans to visit Japan were cancelled when the Japanese Government feared anti-nuclear protests after the refusal by Australian dock unions to repair Invincible because the Ministry of Defence would give no assurance that she was not carrying nuclear weapons.

An engineer said as he waited to clear his family's gifts through customs: "This trip was billed as fun in the sun but after the cancellation people came to feel the ship was plagued."

One of his friends disagreed: "Most of us were fed up at one time or another but things have calmed down. A lot of it was blown up by the press back here and that caused some anger."

The Ministry of Defence marketing manager, Mr John Ledlie, told a press conference on board that he expected the trip to win up to £250m extra orders for British defence equipment, including more Sea Harriers for India.

Monday Club rebels may attend inquiry

By Philip Webster, Political Correspondent

Members of the Monday Club suspended because of their involvement in the Camberley Group, which the club says was formed with the aim of taking it over, are to be allowed to attend next week's executive council meeting at which their expulsion will be considered.

The six who have been suspended, headed by Mr John Pinniger, the former paid political adviser, have been told they can be accompanied by one or two friends who are members or make statements in writing.

Mr Pinniger, Mrs Eleanor Parker, Mr Derek Land, secretary of the club's immigration committee, Mr Nicholas Parker, Mr Ian Fotheringham and Mr Simon Pearce face either a reprimand, a suspension for a specified period or expulsion. A seventh member, Mr Simon McIlwaine, has resigned already.

The club has said its decision to suspend Mr Pinniger and his colleagues was based on evidence of a "clandestine and unethical plot" to take over the club.

It added that the Camberley Group's supporters had produced no evidence about its "moderating" purpose. The club pointed out that Miss Michele Cooper, who The Times reported last Friday was among six other members who had left the club, had now renewed her subscription.

Members of the Camberley Group, however, have said the

The Oman affair 'Muckraking' MPs condemned

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr John Biffen, leader of the Commons, yesterday attacked the "grubby politics" of Labour MPs who have pursued the Prime Minister's role in obtaining the Oman university contract for Cernation.

Government frustration and anger are becoming more and more acute as the publicity nags on. It is accepted in some Whitehall circles that advisers misjudged the press.

The issue was raised yesterday in the Commons by a Conservative backbencher, Mr Andrew Mackay, MP for East

Berkshire, who said that British commercial and trade interests in the Gulf were being damaged by Labour's "irresponsible muck-raking".

Mr Biffen said: "What is good for grubby politics, is rarely good for this country."

Mr Terry Patchett, Labour MP for Barnsley, East, said that a Conservative backbench motion, in defence of the Prime Minister, had attracted only 179 signatures.

He asked whether the signatures were more than 100 short of Conservative backbench

strength indicated support for Mr Edward Heath's view that the Prime Minister should volunteer a full statement.

Conservative ministers and MPs wonder what can be done to help their leader surmount a difficulty which they say is none of her making.

There is a readiness to criticize Mr Mark Thatcher for involving his mother in his business, and a degree of certainty among senior Tories that Mrs Thatcher will ensure that her son keeps his distance from official visits.

Rate-capping opponents look to Lords

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Councillors opposed to rate capping turned to the House of Lords yesterday as the Rates Bill passed unscathed through its Commons committee stage.

Lord Sandford, Conservative chairman for the Association of District Councils, arranged a meeting at Westminster for 100 crossbench peers to emphasize the strength and diversity of opposition to rate-capping in the shires and cities.

Speakers included leaders of

the Conservative-led Association of county Councils and the Labour-dominated Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

The three associations made it clear at the closed meeting that the failure of the committee to modify the Bill's capping powers increased the Lords' responsibility to reflect deep-seated resentment to the Bill.

Labour MPs on the committee prolonged debate about

the early clauses so that discussion of the later parts would be curtailed by the Government's guillotine. The later parts include powers to cap the rates of all but the smallest councils in England and Wales.

The Conservative committee members outnumbered opposition MPs by 17 to 11. They voted down all the Labour and Alliance attempts to restrict and dilute the capping powers.

The coalfields dispute Kent miners lose action over travel curb

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Kent miners yesterday lost their High Court attempt to prevent the police stopping them leaving their strike-bound coalfield to picket working collieries in the Midlands.

But National Union of Mineworkers' officials pledged to continue secondary picketing. The Kent constabulary said it would continue to turn back pickets before they left the county.

The court hearing in London took place as flying pickets from South Wales and Yorkshire tightened their grip in the Midlands, closing four pits that had been operating normally.

The National Coal Board reported last night that the number of pits working normally had dropped to 38 from 42 on Monday, meaning that

less than a quarter of the country's 175 mines are unaffected by strikes.

A further four pits are producing a small amount of coal and nine had men working but were unable to produce.

The pits closed yesterday were Bolsover in Derbyshire and Bledworth, Nottinghamshire. Birch Coppice and Coventry collieries in Warwickshire were picketed when miners arrived for the afternoon shift.

There was another large police presence in Nottinghamshire, where most miners went to work normally and the authorities had been awaiting the outcome of the hearing to see if police tactics would need to be modified.

The Kent area of the NUM decided to seek an injunction against the police after a car carrying Kent miners was

stopped at the entrance to the Dartford Tunnel on Sunday. Despite losing the application for an injunction, union officials said that an action for damages against Mr Frank Jordan, the Chief Constable of Kent, would continue.

Mr Malcolm Pitt, the Kent miners' president, said after the 90-minute hearing: "As far as we are concerned the activities of our members going into the Leicestershire coalfield and other coalfields is perfectly legal and we shall continue doing so."

The application, which was heard in chambers by Mr Justice McNeill, was made in the names of two miners from Betteshanger Colliery, Mr Brian Foy and Mr John Simmonds, who were also supported by the National Council of Civil Liberties.

The union is expected to pursue an action for damages against the police for obstructing pickets' lawful use of the highway and causing a nuisance at the Dartford Tunnel.

The results of miners' ballot in Leicestershire, which has been the centre of the Kent miners' attention, announced yesterday showed 90 per cent against a national strike over pit closures. The result was unsurprising in view of the prospect of fresh jobs in the coalfield when the Vale of Belvoir reserves are developed over the next few years.

Transport and shipping unions in Scotland pledged yesterday that no coal would be moved from ports or depots, except to hospitals, schools and pensioners.

Standby force evicted

By Craig Seton

Police on standby in north Derbyshire received six hours' notice to quit their billets yesterday from a Labour-controlled council which said it did not wish to be seen taking sides in the miners' dispute.

Up to 500 policemen are understood to have been staying in the Speedwell Rooms in Staveley, Chesterfield.

North Derbyshire miners voted against striking by a majority of 16. That result was overturned by the area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers, which ordered the men to strike. Eight pits are now at a standstill and local men are doing the picketing.

In Staffordshire and Warwickshire, where miners voted by three to one against striking, only two out of eleven pits were working normally yesterday as more miners refused to cross picket lines.

Police reject claims of a 'paramilitary state'

By David Cross

Any campaign by the trade unions for a repeal of the 1980 and 1982 employment acts and restoration of the immunities they previously enjoyed would be unlikely to win public support, he said during a lecture in London.

"The ordinary people of England will well remember the abuses to which immunities gave rise," the former Master of the Rolls said in London during the annual lecture sponsored in his name by the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry.

For more than 70 years trade unions were immune from legal action. "Now, if they disobey, they are liable to fines and damages and to having their assets sequestered. This has made them concentrate their minds wonderfully. No trade union can survive for long with its assets seized, sequestered and depleted."

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Diplomatic stakes led by Oxford

An educational survey of more than 1,000 British diplomats has shown the nearly two out of three went to Oxbridge.

Confirmation that Sir Humphrey Appleby is alive and doing jolly well in this enclave of Whitehall came in a written Commons answer last night from Mr Ray Whitney, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office.

The accent was on Oxfor, with 321 - several lengths ahead of Cambridge, with 290. London was third with 101, overseas universities produced 53, Edinburgh 23, Manchester 21 and Bristol 20. The breakdown covered 1,006, the majority at the Foreign Office, in Havana and elsewhere.

The only other universities to score double figures were Aberdeen 9, Durham 15, Glasgow 11, Leeds 11, St Andrew's 13 and Sussex 11.

Reuter ban hits second agency

Services provided by the Press Association, the national news agency, were severely curtailed yesterday when most of its staff, who are members of the National Graphical Association, decided not to cross a picket line mounted by NGA members at the Reuter agency, which shares the same building in London's Fleet Street.

A two-week strike by NGA members at Reuter over a pay claim has disrupted the agency's service and led to a picket line being mounted on its offices by the union.

Dartington Hall relaunch

Dartington Hall School, near Totnes, Devon, its finances ailing and its progressive tradition tarnished by the controversy surrounding the resignation last September of its headmaster, Dr Lyn Blackshaw, yesterday relaunched itself in a £6,000 campaign with a new prospectus, a new disciplinary procedure and a new practical image.

While the changes were announced at a press conference in London, Mrs Beth Blackshaw, wife of the former headmaster, protested outside.

Girls win fight to save home

Eleven teenage girls yesterday won their High Court fight to save their community home in Bristol from closure, at least for the time being.

Mrs Justice Heilbron said that Avon County Council had failed in its legal duty by not giving first consideration to the welfare of the children before making any decision to close the Crescent Community Home in Downend Bristol.

Sellafield beach clean-up

A clean-up of radioactive debris from 15 miles of holiday beaches in West Cumbria begins tomorrow. The debris is the result of discharge from the Sellafield plant of British Nuclear Fuels.

The union is expected to pursue an action for damages against the police for obstructing pickets' lawful use of the highway and causing a nuisance at the Dartford Tunnel.

The results of miners' ballot in Leicestershire, which has been the centre of the Kent miners' attention, announced yesterday showed 90 per cent against a national strike over pit closures. The result was unsurprising in view of the prospect of fresh jobs in the coalfield when the Vale of Belvoir reserves are developed over the next few years.

Transport and shipping unions in Scotland pledged yesterday that no coal would be moved from ports or depots, except to hospitals, schools and pensioners.

The police angered miners yesterday by refusing to allow them to picket Thoresby colliery in Nottinghamshire.

Pickets angered by ban

From Barrie Clement, Mansfield

The police angered miners yesterday by refusing to allow them to picket Thoresby colliery in Nottinghamshire.

A cordon of 200 policemen kept 50 miners, most of them from South Wales, away from the entrance and would not allow them to talk to their colleagues arriving for the morning shift.

An inspector outside the pit said that they were "demonstrators", not pickets, and therefore the police were entitled to stop them approaching the Nottingham miners.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Canada \$25, Hong Kong \$25, India \$25, Japan \$25, New Zealand \$25, Singapore \$25, South Africa \$25, Sweden \$25, Switzerland \$25, Taiwan \$25, Thailand \$25, United Kingdom \$25, USA \$25, West Germany \$25, Yugoslavia \$25.

Doctors fear disclosure of records by databank users might scare patients away

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Threats to the confidentiality of medical records by computer databank users may scare some patients away from going to their family doctor or telling him or her everything, and some doctors may stop keeping comprehensive notes, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The association announced it was pressing for an amendment to the controversial Data Protection Bill to ensure that doctors control the disclosure of medical information, rather than health authorities.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is to meet doctors' representatives next Monday to discuss the Bill. The association is seeking the introduction of a code of practice to protect patients' personal health information from "improper" disclosure.

The purpose of the Bill is to protect individuals from the misuse of personal information held in databanks, but doctors have become increasingly concerned that the confidentiality of patients' records will not be fully debated while the Bill is still in its committee stage.

The association is seeking an amendment to a clause of the Bill which deals with the controls on the transfer of information from health authority computers to computers used by police, customs and excise and inland revenue departments.

Dr John Dawson, head of the association's professional division, said: "I do not think patients have any idea of how much information about them is already spread throughout a wide network."

We produced examples such as that of a diabetic child. Medical information held by the family doctor would be available to the hospital, district nurse, health visitor, social worker, education department, housing department, community officer and police.

A government circular to local authorities on access to social service department records has highlighted the need for data protection laws, the British Medical Association says (our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

In a note to secretaries of its 200 divisions in England and Wales, the association says that although the circular is only an interim measure, the Department of Health and Social Security "seems to have rejected the association's call for detailed advice."

The lack of statutory backing for the circular, it adds, points to the need for legislation in this area.

Thames and ITN want to move in if TV-am fails

By Wayne Listott

Thames Television and Independent Television News are both interested in taking over commercial breakfast television broadcasts, should the financially-starved TV-am collapse.

The Times has seen documents which show that Thames and ITN have each reviewed the possibility of a takeover and that Thames has undertaken a feasibility study.

Last month TV-am survived the latest in a series of financial crises when it negotiated a cost-cutting agreement with the television unions.

But it still has to find £4m and it is being kept afloat by the financial guarantees of two shareholders, Aiken Communications and Fleet Holdings, owners of the Express Group of newspapers.

TV-am has been attempting a recovery since last summer and since then has introduced two new shareholders. Fleet Holdings bought 20 per cent of the company for £2m and Consolidated Press paid £1m for 10 per cent. Existing shareholders provided another £1.5m.

In a memorandum to senior Thames executives, distributed two weeks ago, item 7 reads: "In view of TV-am's recent financial difficulties, the possibility of TV-am being taken over by either Thames or ITN was discussed and the chairman informed the committee that a feasibility study had in fact been undertaken by Thames, a short while ago."

A spokesman for Thames said: "No feasibility study has been undertaken by Thames concerning a takeover of TV-am."

ITN also denied that it was interested in acquiring TV-am, despite its strong representation for the morning broadcast franchise.

School recordings

Schools, colleges and training centres will be allowed to record Channel 4 programmes for educational use under a breakthrough in the treatment of copyright announced by the channel yesterday.

Russian dies in 40ft fall

A police investigation into the death of a Russian woman who fell 40ft yesterday from a fourth-floor flat in Bayswater, west London, has revealed no suspicious circumstances.

A post-mortem examination revealed that Mrs Luda Klimov, aged 29, died from internal injuries. Her husband is Mr Alexander Klimov, a translator with the International Maritime Organization in London, a UN agency which deals with ferry accidents and the prevention of marine pollution.

The Soviet Embassy made no comment on the incident and the Foreign Office said it was a matter for the police. Neighbours in the Hyde Park Square block described Mrs Klimov as a "beautiful girl". An inquest will be held.

Brothel-keeping detective fined

Detective Thomas Quinn, aged 30, and his wife, Gloria, 32, pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court yesterday to running a brothel at North Circular Road, Dublin, between March 14 and June 14 last year. His wife pleaded guilty to managing the 'Galaxy' massage parlour.

The couple, from Castleknock, Dublin, were fined £80 each. Police observed the house after Quinn, "an exemplary policeman", had bought it in December, 1982.

Minister to face church hearing

A Methodist Church hearing into allegations that the Rev Edgar Ford took "sexy photographs" of young women and ran a mailing list service containing the names of 100 women willing to pose for photographs is expected within a few weeks.

Mr Ford, who will be allowed legal representation, could be expelled from his ministry in Deddington, Oxfordshire, if the allegations are proved.

Editor to leave

Mr Arnold Hadwin, aged 55, a Guild of British Newspaper Editors nominee on the Press Council, is giving up the editorship of the Bradford evening newspaper the *Telegraph & Argus* at the end of the next month, it was announced yesterday.

Greenpeace raid

Cash totalling £1,500 was taken from the safe of the Greenpeace vessel, the *Cedarlea*, while on a visit to Dublin. The sum represented three days' takings from sales and subscriptions and gifts to the Dublin Clean Seas Committee.

Mystery man

An unknown man in his early twenties found unconscious on a boat at Harleyford marina, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, on Saturday has refused to speak since recovering consciousness at Wycombe general hospital. He is white, 6ft tall, with brown hair.

Faulty breathalyzer leads to quashed convictions

From Our Correspondent, Carlisle

Three men convicted of drink-driving were given their licences back yesterday because of a faulty police breath-test machine.

At Carlisle Crown Court the three men, including a haulier who had pleaded guilty at a magistrates' court hearing, had their convictions quashed. Cumbria police offered no evidence.

After the verdict Cumbria police referred a number of cases where motorists had been convicted for driving with excess alcohol to the Home Office for further consideration.

Robert Best, aged 18, unemployed, of Russell Gate, Rowletown, Carlisle, who was banned for a year by Carlisle magistrates and fined £40, maintained at the hearing in December that he had drunk only two pints of lager and a mouthful of Pernod, although the reading on the Lion Intoximeter 3000 recorded a figure of 58 and 65 mgs of alcohol.

At his appeal yesterday Mr Raymond Wigglesworth, for the police, said: "The decision has been taken at a fairly high level not to oppose this appeal."

At the same time, convictions against Anthony Bell, aged 36, of Kirkbride, Carlisle, a haulage contractor, and Mr Joseph Dent, from Brampton, were quashed by Judge Edmondson.

Mr Geoffrey Clapp, their solicitor, said: "As far as I know this is the first successful appeal on the grounds that an Intoximeter machine has been faulty."

Father's arrest ordered

A High Court judge yesterday ordered the arrest of a father who has defied a court order and run away with his young daughter for the third time.

Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss also ordered that ports and airports be alerted in an attempt to stop Mr Alan Fenton, aged 32, leaving the country with his daughter Cain, aged nine, right, who is a ward of court.

Mr Fenton, of Manchester, failed to return his daughter to her mother in London, Mrs Marcia Fenton, aged 27, of Boundary Road, St John's Wood, after an access visit at the weekend.

Mr Fenton first fled to the United States with Cain in 1979 in defiance of a court order. Last September Mrs Fenton was finally given care and control of her daughter.



Redesigned phone directory launched

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

A new telephone directory, to be called The Phone Book, incorporating national and international dialling codes and local information, is launched by British Telecom today.

The Central Manchester area will receive the first new directory. Mr Edward Hopkinson, whose bookstall, 2nd Hand and Rare Books, is its first listing, said yesterday: "I haven't been on since 1980. We've no letter box. I suppose that's the problem."

About 250,000 new directories will be distributed in Central Manchester from today and all of Britain's directories will be replaced by the end of 1986.

The new books, with glossy

covers containing a picture of a local landmark, will all have the same basic design containing five sections: local information, dialling codes (domestic), dialling codes (international), names and numbers and British Telecom's code of practice.

The local information includes details of entertainment, sport and leisure, historic buildings and museums and art galleries and gives telephone numbers of hospitals, council departments, courts and tax offices.

The London directories will not be replaced until next year. The four divisions which separate the alphabetical listings are expected to be retained.

In the next months new directories will appear in Wir-

ral, Canterbury West, Blackburn, Cambridge, Bournemouth, Barking, Leicester, Burton on Trent, Warrington, Lomond and Argyll, Leeds and Wetherby, Wakefield, Cardiff and South East Wales (Business), Mid and South Glamorgan and Gwent and Brecon and Lower Wye Valley.

More than 22 million books - old and new - will be issued this year. There is little difference between the cost of the old directories and the new.

The directory inquiry service, which costs British Telecom £6m a year, is to be computerized by the end of next year. The first area to operate the computerized system will be Cardiff, at the end of this year.



Hat trick: Annabel Heseltine, aged 20, daughter of the Secretary of State for Defence, modelling a high-crowned hat (top) and two more items of millinery from the 1984 collection of Mr David Shilling, whose

work first caught the public eye through his mother who has worn his creations at Royal Ascot for many seasons. Miss Heseltine, who modelled for charity as a debutante is considering a career in the fashion world.

Windfalls wait to be claimed by publicans

By Ian Griffiths

Publicans in Wolverhampton are sitting on a £100,000 windfall which nobody has so far claimed.

The money is available under a scheme which is repaying £1.25m to landlords for a levy raised under the Licensing Act, 1904.

Early twentieth-century social workers felt that some areas had too many public houses, so the Act was passed enabling licensing authorities to close some.

As compensation to the landlords who lost their public houses, a levy was raised on the remaining ones and during the last 80 years this has grown to £5m.

With the fund's winding-up, £2.5m goes to alcoholism research, £1.25m to a fund for former licensed trade employees and the remainder to landlords.

To qualify the public house must have existed since 1904, the applicant must have had a leasehold or freehold interest in the premises from 1973 to 1981.

If a qualifying area has only one claimant, that landlord will get the entire amount. One Worcestershire public house will get more than £68,000 if no other claims are made.

However, the big breweries have still to make their claims, along with the public houses in Wolverhampton and 18 other areas.

Staggered meal times replace family lunch

By Kenneth Gossling

Home cooking is on the way out and traditional family meals have declined to such an extent that more than a third of all households now stagger their mealtimes, according to a survey commissioned by Philips, the electrical products company.

It predicts a boom in microwave ovens, dishwashers and computerized cooking facilities with the rapid change in attitude of women towards the role of housewife and cook.

They are more conscious of their rights to pursue careers and have separate interests, hence cooking and food preparation are playing a far less important part in their lives.

The heart-sinking prospect for all those who still savour the traditional Sunday lunch is that there will be a substantial growth in fast foods, disposable utensils and cheap restaurants.

Mr Tony Cowling, managing director of the Taylor Nelson Group, specialists in food and drink research, which carried out the study, said: "Preparation is becoming an ever more acceptable concept. Kitchens and cookers will incorporate more modern scientific advantages."

While many housewives questioned claim to enjoy being creative in cookery, in practice few of them are often adventurous.

Crowing cock silenced

It was Mr Anthony Harrison's turn to crow yesterday after magistrates at Totnes, Devon, upheld a complaint against his neighbour's cockerel, Cocky.

Mrs Catherine Duffin's appeal against a council noise abatement order on the bird's early morning crowing was dismissed.

The chairman, Mr Lindsey Patterson, recommended that Cocky's wings be clipped.

Mrs Duffin, aged 63, a widow, of Tuckenhay, near Totnes, said: "The council said I must catch the cockerel every night and put him in a sound-proof box, but I shall kill him or give him away."

Mr Harrison complained that he and his wife Annette had been unable to use their bedroom because they were regularly woken at 4 am by the raucous bird. Its cock-a-doodle-do reached 60 decibels.

Company profits should be seen and not burnt.



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PARLIAMENT March 20 1984

Absurd to talk about arrival of police state

COAL DISPUTE

The police had performed a most important role in enabling those who wished to work to exercise their right, Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons, said during Prime Minister's question time when he rejected a Labour MP's suggestion that there had been over-reaction by the police in the miners' dispute.

Mr Frank Haynes (Ashfield, Lab) had said amidst Conservative laughter that the Government was taking a course towards a police state and asked whether it was planning a one-party state.

Mr Anthony Blair (Sedgefield, Lab) raised the matter when Mr Biffen was deputizing in the Commons for Mrs Thatcher, still at the European summit in Brussels.

He asked: Regardless of the merits, does he not realize that the blanket setting up of road blocks to prevent the free movement of citizens is an interference of civil liberties and has no basis in law?

Before the introduction of these arbitrary emergency powers, what

consultations were there between his Government and chief constables?

Mr Biffen: I understand that his first point is the subject of legal action. I therefore cannot comment on an individual case, but there is no doubt of the general legal situation.

If a constable reasonably concludes that persons are travelling to take part in picketing or in circumstances where there is likely to be a breach of the peace, he has a common law power to call on them not to continue their journey.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab): By what statutory authority have the police occupied the Speedwell Rooms in Chesterfield and Ashgate Hospital? Can he give a categorical assurance that the Government has not put the armed forces on the alert? (Conservative laughter.)

Mr Biffen: I can give him an assurance that the armed forces have not been put on the alert.

Mr Haynes: People outside the mining community, ordinary folk, are concerned about the over-reaction of the police - (Conservative protests) - in the miners' dispute.



Blair: Interference with civil liberties.

dispute. It indicates that the Government is clearly taking the course of having a police state. (Loud Conservative laughter.)

Could he tell the House, and the public outside, is the Government planning to move on to a one-party state?

Mr Biffen: There is no industrial dispute situation which cannot be made worse by the rhetoric of politicians and talk about a police state and that the Government is conspiring to create a one-party state is absurdity.

The police have performed a most important role in enabling those who wish to work to exercise their right.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on fuel costs and poverty. Lords (2.30): Debates on the Highlands and Islands; nuclear war; and on the prison service.

EMPLOYMENT

It was no coincidence that they were starting to see more jobs in Britain at a time when profit performance was improving, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, told the Commons.

He was reacting to a question by Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, who said Government policy consisted of the propositions that profits should be as high as possible and wages as low as possible.

Mr King: As Mr Smith is always calling for investment, how does he think investment comes without profit?

It is no coincidence that we are now starting to see more jobs in this country, (Labour shouts of "Where, where?")

I know Labour MPs get upset at good news. If they study the Employment Gazette, the latest figures show there are more people at work in this country.

We are getting more jobs. It is no coincidence that this is happening at a time when the profit performance is improving.

It assures to create new jobs for the 20,000 miners likely to be put out of

work by pit closures were called for by Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab) during other exchanges on unemployment in which Mr King said for 3,186,000 people were out of work at the beginning of February.

Mr Lofthouse stated: Bearing in mind that many of these miners are in their early fifties, has his department any plans to encourage further employment in these areas or is the Government planning to commit them to an industrial desert?

Mr King: The best hope for these unemployed or facing the loss of jobs is going to be a general improvement in the economy. I am encouraged to see the progress being made through the Chancellor's decision to abolish the tax on jobs introduced by the Labour Government and pleased to see the confidence from the Budget which resulted in the immediate reduction in interest rates. Both these things will make a substantial contribution to employment.

Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C): said those over 55 who are long-term unemployed are less likely to get jobs again. Is there not a case for a higher form of unemployment benefit or some

bridging income that will take them to retirement pension?

Mr King: Our first ambition is to give the best possible opportunity for people to get into jobs. Obviously the situation differs in different parts of the country, but it is encouraging to see a significant increase in the placing of people in jobs this year as against last year.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): Is it not the height of hypocrisy for the Government which has prated for the last fortnight about allowing miners to go to work to be closing pits at a rate that will put thousands out of work and whose policies will be putting millions out of work?

Mr King: I do not consider him an authority on hypocrisy. When he supported a government which closed pits at twice our rate.

Mr Albert McQuarrie (Banff and Buchan, C): asked if there was some solution for the unemployed in rural areas particularly those over 55.

Mr King said he recognized the problems faced by the more elderly in their search for work.

Mr John Smith, he is not ashamed that after five years of Conservative Government the long-term unem-

ployed have steadily climbed to 1,188,000.

The Government does not seem to have given substantial thought to this. Is not the time long overdue for



Lewis: Those over 55 unlikely to get jobs again.

extending the elementary social justice of long-term supplementary benefit to these people?

Mr King: He was a member of a Cabinet which doubled unemployment. This Government has spent substantially greater sums of money

in trying to help overcome these problems with a range of measures.

The first requirement is to ensure that we can handle expenditure to give the best chance for people to get employment. This means continuing to pursue the economic policies outlined by the Chancellor.

● Extending long-term supplementary benefit to unemployed claimants over 50 years old would cost £480m. Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, started. Limited to those over 50 with dependent children, it would cost £270m.

Mr Clark said during employment questions in the Commons that there were 574,692 unemployed claimants aged 50 and over in the United Kingdom on January 12, the latest figure available. Mr John Evans, an Opposition spokesman on employment (St Helens North), asked: Has he any idea of the despair of many of that 574,692 over 50s who have become unemployed under this Government and who feel they have no chance whatsoever of ever getting a job again?

Mr Clark: Yes, it is a distressing sector of the labour market where there are cases of individual distress and frustration.

Distressing plight of older jobless

Little good in grubby politics

OMAN CONTRACT

Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal, and Leader of the House of Commons, agreed with a Conservative MP during question time that comments by Labour MPs about the Prime Minister and Oman could well make life that much more difficult for British exporters.

Mr Andrew MacKay (East Berkshire, C): said: Many British companies are experiencing considerable difficulties in securing orders in the Gulf - (Labour laughter) - because the governments of that area quite rightly resent the irresponsible muck-raking carried on in this House by Labour MPs who have tried to discredit the Prime Minister's reputation.

Do they realize how much harm they are doing to British industry and how many people's jobs are at risk because of their actions?

Mr Biffen: I have no evidence of contracts lost. I am certain that Mr MacKay is right in saying that the matters to which he refers could well make life that much more difficult for British exporters in that region.

One thing is certain: what is good for grubby politics is rarely good for this country.

Mr Terry Patchett (Barnsley, East, Lab): Is Mr Biffen concerned that only 170 Conservative MPs have signed Commons early day motion 58?

[The motion reads: That this House congratulate the Prime Minister on the vigour and success with which she has pursued Britain's interest in securing overseas contracts during her visit to India and the Gulf States in April 1981 and throughout her period of office; accepts without reservation that the Prime Minister has clearly stated that she neither named, nor pursued the interests of Cementation, or any other individual company in relation to the Oman University project; and deplores the continuing efforts of the Opposition to discredit the Prime Minister personally and undermine her efforts to win work and jobs for Britain.]

Mr Patchett added: Does Mr Biffen feel that that low number can be accounted for by the fact that many Conservatives agree with Mr Biffen who feels that there is a need for the Prime Minister to make a statement to the House? (Labour cheers.)

Mr Biffen: The answer is that we shall be more than satisfied with the final number of signatories.

£80 for spectacles called 'scare talk'

CHARGES

A contention that pensioners would be paying £70 or £80 for spectacles which they had previously been able to get for £30 under the National Health Service, as a result of the Health and Social Security Bill, was dismissed as scare talk by Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, during Prime Minister's question time in the Commons.

The Prime Minister was at the meeting of the European Council in Brussels and will be reporting on it to the Commons tomorrow (Wednesday).

On the exchanges Mr Michael Calfin (Romsey and Waterside, C) said that as a result of the Budget, there will be 100,000 fewer pensioner households paying income tax than there were under Labour. Does this mean that as well as being a budget for business and jobs, it is also a budget for pensioners?

It shows that at least we care even if Labour MPs fail to recognize the fact?

Mr Biffen: He is right to draw attention to the pensioner household which will be taken out of tax as a result of the Budget which was an extraordinarily well-judged and well-balanced Budget both in terms of what it offers industry and social justice.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: On the subject of the treatment of pensioners, is he aware that as a consequence of the Health and Social Security Bill, pensioners are going to have to have to meet huge increases in the cost of their spectacles and that the more need they have to change their spectacles, the higher the cost is going to be? How can he possibly defend that?

Mr Biffen: He knows that under the terms of National Health Service

provision for spectacles, arrangements are made for pensioners.

Taking the totality of pensioners, I have no doubt that the lifetime of this Government and this Parliament will show an increase in pensioners living standards compared with what happened under the Labour Government.

Mr Kinnock: He does not appear to be aware that pensioners now no longer qualify for NHS spectacles. The only people who do are the very poor and children under 16.

Pensioners are going to have to pay £70 or £80 for spectacles that they have been able to get under the NHS for £30.

If he agrees with my view, and I suspect he does, would he get changes made at the report stage of the Bill?

Mr Biffen: My observations about pensioners' living standards took account of the recent changes in the Budget. It is a short-term basis of politics to engage in scare talk of £80 for a pair of spectacles. If he would like to have the debate to be carried further at report stage, we will welcome it.

Mrs Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, C): The Minister of Health (Mr Kenneth Clarke) during the committee stage of the Health and Social Security Bill, on the subject of spectacles charges, has already taken note of the fact that a number of elderly people are facing extreme charges where they will not be allowed national health spectacles, and has said that that will be the subject of serious consideration.

Will Mr Biffen back up that suggestion with an assurance to the House that people will not be penalized if their sight is very bad?

Mr Biffen: I am certain that in this matter, as in social security issues generally, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, needs no instruction from Labour.

Complaint being prepared

PANORAMA

The fact that matter about the recent Panorama programme on right-wing infiltration of the Conservative Party was being considered by the party for reference to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission is a sign of the serious concern felt about it. Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons, said when he deputized for the absent Prime Minister at question time.

Mr Frank Dobson (Holborn and St Pancras, Lab) had asked Mr Biffen whether he believed the Chairman of the Conservative Party that the Panorama programme was incorrect or the chairman of the Young Conservatives who has said that it was correct.

Mr Biffen: The programme is itself now the subject of legal representations and I shall curtail my comment on that account. It would not need the Opposition, or the proposition of a comparison between the Chairman of the Conservative Party and the Chairman of the Young Conservatives, for me to say that, without question, Mr Selwyn Gummer, the Chairman of the Conservative Party is conducting his chairmanship and the investigation of this issue with total integrity.

Fewer cars with diplomatic immunity

There were now only 4,700 cars with CD plates and complete immunity from prosecution and 1,000 cars previously having immunity were now liable to the full force of the law, Lord Lucas of Chilworth, a Government spokesman, told the House of Lords during questions about illegal parking in central London.

Committee concern about social security and PSA frauds

EXPENDITURE

Criticism of the Department of Health and Social Security because of its lack of information about the extent of undetected fraud was voiced by Mr Robert Sheldon, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, when he opened a debate to take note of reports of the committee.

Mr Sheldon (Ashton under Lyne, Lab) said the committee had been surprised at the DHSS attitude to the paucity of information on the extent of undetected fraud. The large gaps admitted by the DHSS meant that its existing management information would remain an unsatisfactory basis for determining the most cost-effective deployment of staff on anti-fraud activities.

The committee had been disappointed that the DHSS could not offer an informed guess on the possible cost to the Exchequer of undetected fraud.

The committee had concluded that the employment of investigative staff gave excellent value for money and was pleased that the revenue departments were trying to improve their information on cost and output as a better basis for decision-making.

There were 46 reports before the House, due largely to lack of debate of the general election. It was a shame that some leaders in the nationalized industries did not consider the Public Accounts Committee, so far from being an interfering body, could often be a valuable ally in making sure that these industries were able to get on with their business without excessive interference from government departments.

The committee was now receiving information on defence projects costing more than £100m as before there had been projects which even

members of the Cabinet had been unaware of.

There was also a report on the Property Services Agency concerned with cases of undetected fraud.

This is a serious matter (he said) because we have long been very proud of our standard of public life. We must be aware of the uncertain foundations on which this rests. It rests on the incorruptibility of civil servants and if we discover any breach in the morality which civil servants live by, there would be people who would be outraged.



Sheldon: No informed guess on fraud.

The committee would be continuing its examination of the Wardsale report on the Property Services Agency as was a matter of continuing concern.

The standards of public life must always be higher than in certain private concerns, even if more had to be paid to achieve this.

Another matter the committee had examined was the sale of Hamilton College of Further Education. This had been sold for £574,000 when it had an estimated value of £6m.

Sales of this kind must in future

be subject to a determined exploration and proper attempts made to market such a property adequately.

The committee had been concerned about the way nationalized industries prepared their corporate plans. It had asked that in future corporate plans were prepared annually so that it was possible to compare the different industries and the Government could say where public money could best be spent.

It should be (he concluded) looking for value for money on the Trident missile project. We are looking into the De Lorean case. And we are continuing examination following the Wardsale report of the Property Services Agency frauds.

Sir Michael Shaw (Scarborough, C) expressed doubts about the system of internal audit in central government departments was regarded just as a stepping stone in the career of civil servants, he doubted whether the job would be well done.

He did not believe that anyone in the internal audit office who was expected to go to another branch of the same department in two years was going to be unduly critical of what was going on in that department. The main control and thrust of that internal audit had to come from somewhere else.

Mr Michael Morris (Northampton South, C) said he supported the Prime Minister's efforts to reduce the total number of civil servants, but there were departments which could usefully deploy people of calibre. This was the case in the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise and Department of Health and Social Security where an increase in inspectors had cut down fraud.

The Treasury should take measures to penalise health authorities which did not sell off surplus land. In 1982 there were 6,445 acres of such land awaiting disposal and the figure was probably much the same today.

Impact of Labour idiosyncies

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool, once a pillar of the nation's commercial strength, had been reduced to its present plight by the doctrinaire idiosyncies of the Labour Party, Mr Alan Clark, Under Secretary of State for Employment, said during Commons questions.

Answering Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab), he said the latest figures for unemployed claimants in the area covered by the Liverpool and Toxteth job centres totalled 15,046, of whom 8,522 had been unemployed for more than a year; and in the Merseyside special development area the total was 141,674, of whom 67,706 were unemployed for more than a year.

Mr Barry Porter (Wirral South, C) agreed these figures are rather bad but the position is not helped by the activities of the majority of the Labour members of Liverpool City Council who behave like raving lunatics in relation to finance. If only they would come to their senses prospects for employment would be very much better.

Mr Clark agreed, adding that the council leader had refused to ally himself with the leader of the Labour Party (Mr Neil Kinnock). Mr David Allen (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) said the majority of the unemployed were young construction workers. He called for a major capital works scheme to create jobs for them.

Mr Clark said Liverpool already benefited from special development area status, a development corporation, inner city partnership, an enterprise zone, and had been chosen as an experimental freeport. Other neighbouring areas might wonder why they, too, should not benefit in these ways.

Mr Barry Sheerman, an Opposition spokesman on employment (Huddersfield, Lab) said 370,000 young unemployed people did not go on the youth training scheme.

Mr Clark: This scheme, which is excellent, would benefit from the support of influential people like him, like councillors, like trade union leaders, who should draw the attention of young people and their parents to the benefits of joining this scheme.

Later, during questions answered by Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons on behalf of the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Grant (South-West Cambridgeshire, C): The Prime Minister has said that more than £1,000m a year of public money is pumped into Merseyside. Are the taxpayers getting value for their money?

Mr Biffen: The answer is that we shall be more than satisfied with the final number of signatories.

Only 37 take up part-time job release but scheme goes on

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Only 37 people have taken up the Government's offer of part-time job release, a scheme which was launched at the end of last year at a cost of about £257,000.

That each of the 37 part-timers has cost nearly £7,000 to recruit will not deter the Department of Employment, which is about to start another advertising campaign for the scheme.

Mr Alan Clark, Under-Secretary of State at the department, said in a written Commons reply this week that £245,000 had been spent on an

advertising campaign between October and the end of last year.

The department had received about 10,000 inquiries for leaflets, which had cost about £12,000, but Mr Clark said: "Although considerable interest has been shown in this new experimental scheme, actual take-up has so far been very disappointing. We shall be considering its future when it has had a fair trial."

Rates for the scheme are to go up on April 9, when men aged 62 and 63 and disabled men aged 60 and 61, with wives

earning a maximum net income of £13, will receive £35.30, which is taxable. Men with wives whose income exceeds the limit, receive a taxable £28.65.

For women aged 59 and men aged 64, both groups within a year of retirement, with dependent spouses earning a maximum net weekly income of £13, the benefit will be £30.35 a week, tax free.

Under the Finance Act 1977, only job-release allowances paid for more than one year are taxable.

Atomic test veterans snub cancer inquiry

By David Cross

Representatives of veterans of atomic bomb tests are dissociating themselves from an official inquiry into the effects of radiation.

Mr Ken McGinley, president of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association, said yesterday that the inquiry being conducted by the National Radiological Protection Board was one-sided and disorganized.

At the government's request the board opened a two-year survey last autumn of the medical records of up to 28,000 servicemen and civilians who took part in nuclear weapons

tests in Australia and the Pacific in the 1950s. The survey followed claims by many servicemen that they had contracted cancers because of exposure to radiation.

Mr McGinley, who with other association representatives had cooperated with the study said that the records of many of their members were "shambles".

The board said: "We would prefer to have the association's cooperation, but the study can go ahead without it."

There had been problems in tracing records



Birthday honours: Dame Vera Lynn, a regular TV-am viewer, cutting a cake yesterday made for her 67th birthday by Rusty Lee (centre). TV-am's cookery expert, at a guest appearance shared by Patti Boulaye, the singer. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Driver's benefit fraud

Brian Rhodes, a self-employed driving instructor earning up to £215 a week drove his British School of Motoring car to an interview with Department of Health and Social Security inspectors over supplementary benefit claims. Dudley magistrates were told yesterday.

Rhodes, aged 47, of Marl-

borough Road, Dudley, West Midlands, who is married with two children, was claiming £50 a week in benefits. Mr Paul Shaw, for the prosecution, said. He admitted five offences of falsely claiming benefit and asked for 15 other offences over 10 months to be considered. Rhodes was fined £1,000 and ordered to repay £1,975.

Project to combat acid rain

By Ronald Farr

Organizations accused of contributing to acid rain are to fund a project to reestablish fisheries in affected waters.

The Scottish Electricity Boards, the Central Electricity Generating Board and the National Coal Board will provide £600,000 over the next five years to find measures to counter the effects of acidification.

The research programme, based at Loch Fleet, Galloway, will explore techniques of land treatment and management to improve water quality. Several research institutions will be invited to take part.

The South of Scotland Electricity Board said that it was still not clear that a simple reduction in sulphur emissions would by itself cure the problem of acid waters.

Prince accused

The Prince of Wales is to cut down two-and-a-half acres of woodland on his estate at Boverton, South Glamorgan. The trees were subject to a preservation order, but that cannot be enforced on Crown property.

"The trees are one of the area's most attractive features and it would be a tragedy to lose them", a local councillor, Mr Jack George, said yesterday. He is writing to the Prince, appealing to him to change his mind.

Bankruptcy fear of legal aid solicitors

By Frances Gibbs, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors specializing in legal aid said that the failure of the Lord Chancellor's Department to raise their pay to realistic levels would guarantee the closure or bankruptcy of many small and medium-size firms.

The Legal Aid Practitioners' Group, which represents about 2,000 solicitors, said it deplored the decision of the department and the Treasury to raise pay levels for criminal legal aid work by only 4 per cent.

The group added that many solicitors' firms are operating on overdrafts of more than £50,000 and the new pay levels would do no more than provide the most basic standard of living for skilled professional workers with several years' training.

Mr Quintin Barry, the group's chairman, said several firms were in a desperate position. One well known London firm specializing in legal aid would be giving its partners an income of between £8,000 and £9,000 this year.

The new hourly rate for preparing for a hearing in a magistrates' or Crown court is to be £26. But the group says that since most firms have overheads of 75 per cent or more, that meant a net £6.50 an hour which would do nothing to reduce overdrafts.

The low pay rates were made worse by the delays of several months in getting legal aid bills paid by the Law Society.

The group called on the Government yesterday to overhaul the legal aid scheme and in particular for a full survey of criminal remuneration as proposed by the Law Society. It wants a review body to determine pay rates annually.

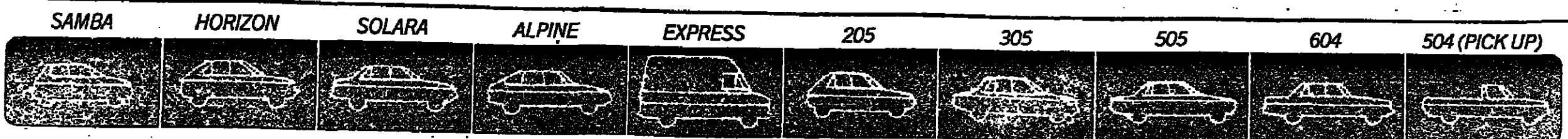
● Mr Peter Lomas, chairman of the Association of Law Costs Draftsmen, said there was room for drastic improvement in the level of pay. Fixed costs, he said, had remained at the same level since the 1960s and in the matrimonial division since 1971.

Warning on bridge costs

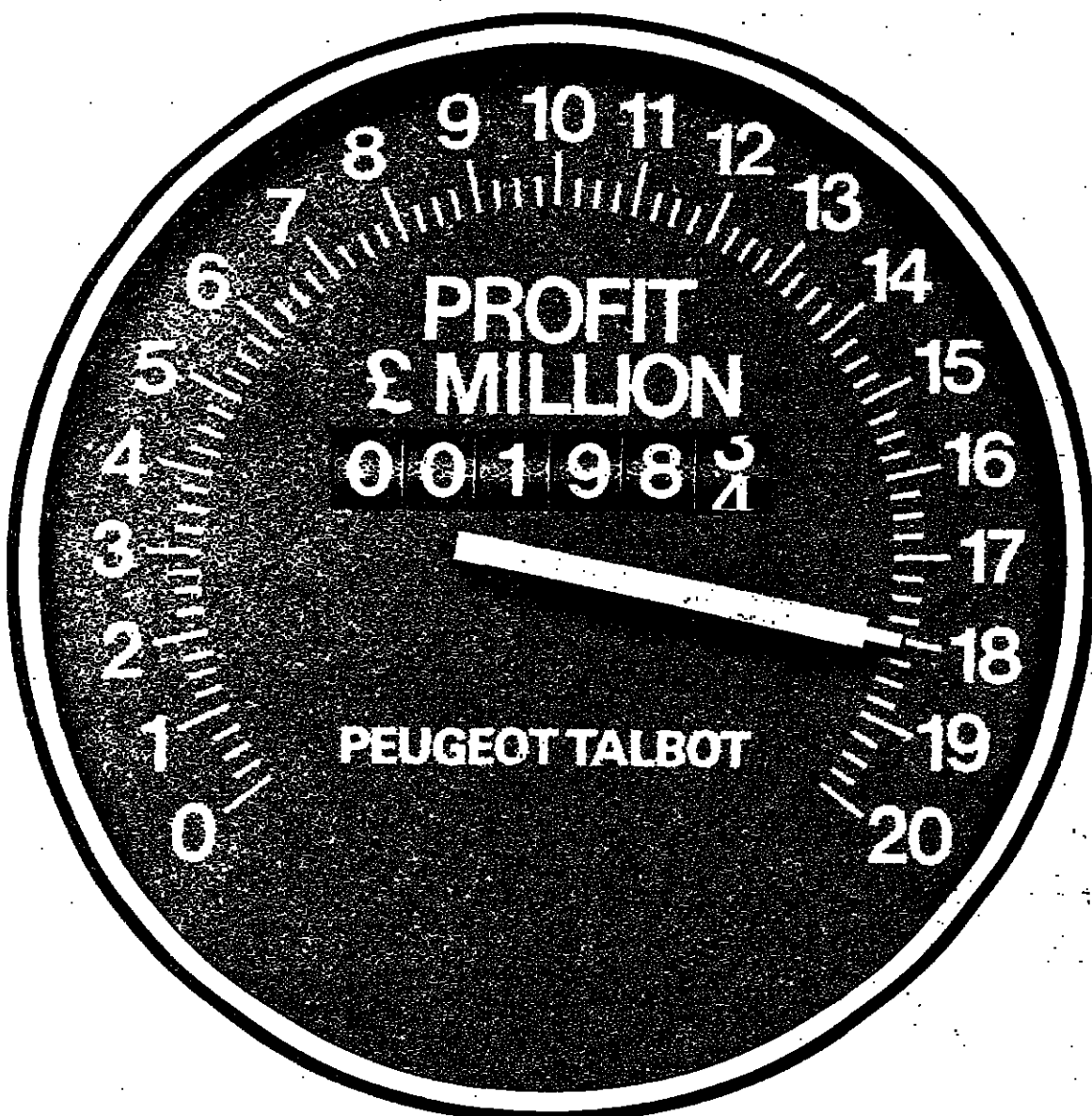
The Government yesterday asked the Forth Bridge authority to review its tolls and operating costs.

The Scottish Office pointed out in a letter to the joint board of representatives from Lothian and Fife regional councils, who form the authority, that the debt to the Government on the bridge had risen to £21.75m and that there was no chance of repaying it by 1994.

The bridge last year generated £2.6m income against operating costs of £1.5m of which 65 per cent represented staff wages. The present toll for cars is 30p.



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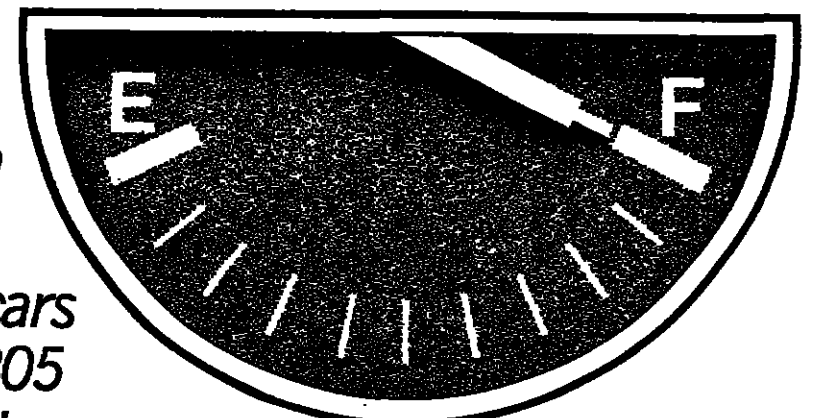
Economical cars, like the Talbot Samba and Britain's widest (and best-selling) range of diesels, with fuel economy figures which look like printing errors.

Sensible cars like the Talbot Horizon, also available as a diesel, which offer five-door practicality at a three-door price.

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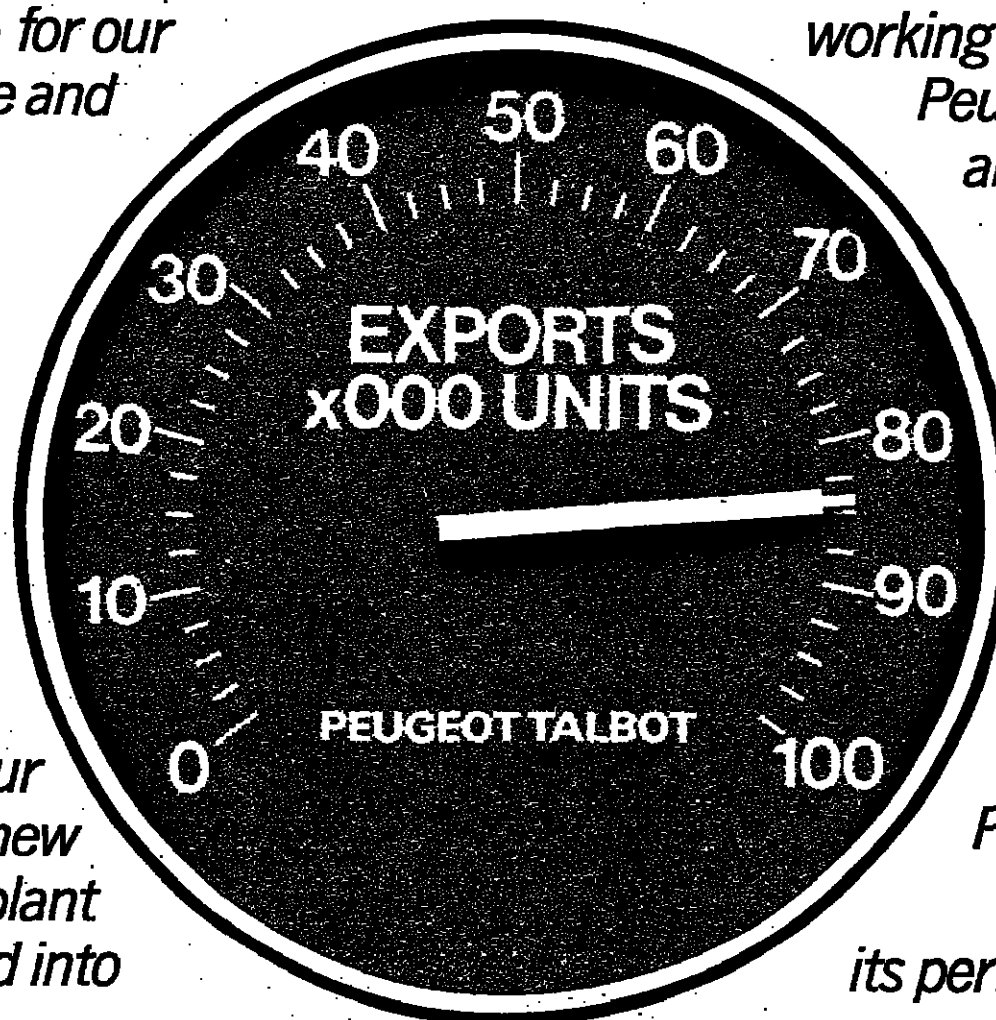
capacious estates. (Not to mention our hard-working light commercial vehicles like the Peugeot 504 pick-up, the 305 van and the Talbot Express.)

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EXPORTS

**THE GOOD NEWS
PEUGEOT TALBOT**



Teachers' pension fund 'lost £11,700m'

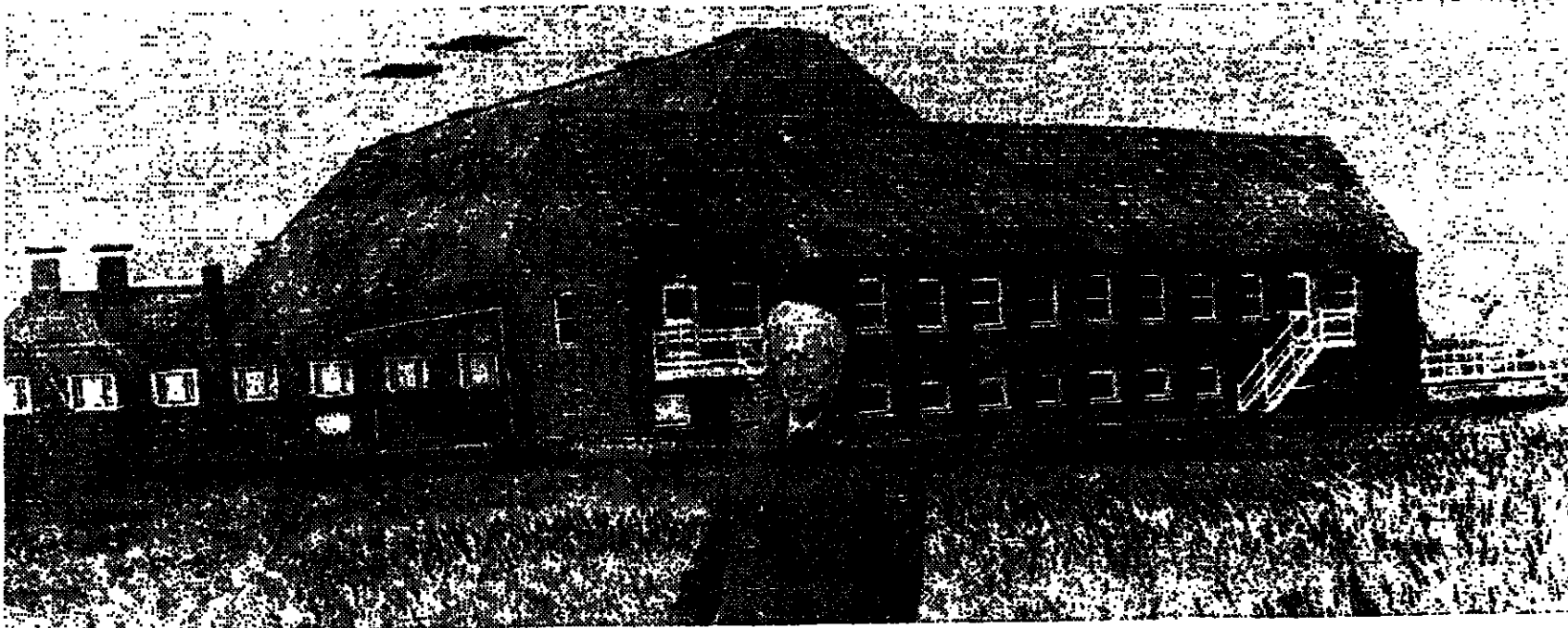
By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

The method of financing teachers' pension funds has lost £11,700m, according to a report released yesterday by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

The second largest teachers' union, with 160,000 members, says that an independent analysis of the pension scheme by Employee Benefit Services calculated that if money had been invested in a model fund local authorities would have saved £261m in reduced contributions.

Since 1926 ratepayers, through local authorities, and teachers have been forced to give pension contributions to the government. The Government has issued IOUs in exchange.

"These are then 'invested' in pretend stocks, dummy war loan and gilt funds. Every year the Government pretends to pay interest on fictional stock. In 1956, the national fund had accumulated £536m of government IOUs. If that, and subsequent annual cash surpluses, had been invested in a model fund, similar to that recommended by the government actuary in 1975, the capital value of the teachers' pension fund would now stand at £20,978m.



Sir Peter Pears, one of the founders of the Aldeburgh Festival, in front of the Snape Maltings (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

Aldeburgh seeks £1m security

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

That most unusual musical organization, the Aldeburgh Foundation, rooted in the chilly Suffolk coast, is seeking that rare artistic, complement, financial security.

Some 17 years after the Queen first opened the concert hall in a converted malthouse at The Snape Maltings, the foundation is appealing for £1m so that it can survive without constantly recurring crises.

The Aldeburgh Appeal has attracted a wide range of supporters. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who opened the Britten-Pears school building in the complex in 1979,

attended a musical reception at St James's Palace last night to launch the fund. The Prince of Wales, sent a message hailing Aldeburgh as "a natural and joyful part of the British music scene."

On Saturday, the appeal will benefit from a gala premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical, *Starlight Express*, an indication of the standing Aldeburgh holds.

The first festival took place in 1948, having been founded by Benjamin Britten, Peter Pears and Eric Crozier. Today Sir Peter still lives in Aldeburgh and works as an artistic director for the event and, with Henry Moore, the sculptor, as patron of the appeal.

Action threat on Welsh marina developments

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Welsh nationalist protesters have threatened a campaign of direct actions against marina developments in the principality which they claim will benefit only wealthy English people.

A recent decision by Ceredigion district council in favour of a £7m marina at Aberystwyth led to slogans being painted in the town.

An unknown group calling itself the Movement for the Defence of the Interests of the Welsh People, threatened that it

was only the beginning of a campaign of militant action. According to the Welsh Language Society, the marinas will be too expensive for local people.

Mr Robin Parry, the society's group spokesman, said: "One berth at Aberystwyth will cost more than £900 without taking the cost of a yacht into consideration. If our democratic objections to the marinas fail, we will be forced to take direct action."

Colville report on Guatemala

Rights inquiry on Guatemala heavily criticized

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

A United Nations report on human rights violations in Guatemala has been sharply criticized from a number of international quarters for its solicitude towards the regime there, almost eclipsing the documented atrocities and excesses that have earned Guatemala notoriety.

The report was prepared by Lord Colville, the Conservative peer, who, until his appointment in an individual capacity as special rapporteur for Guatemala, had served as chairman of the British delegation to the UN human rights commission in Geneva. It is based largely on an 11-day visit to Guatemala last summer and a six-day tour last November.

Critics have charged Lord Colville with being concerned more with Guatemala improving its image abroad than holding it accountable for gross human rights violations. Of the 11 recommendations contained in the report by the commission, priority is placed on support for the Guatemalan Government's plans for rural development while last on the list is the insistence that disappearances, killings and kidnappings be cleared up, and even then direct blame is not prescribed.

Perhaps the most pointed indication of the commission's displeasure with Lord Colville's assessment of the situation in Guatemala, expressed during the commission's consideration in Geneva last week, is that the traditionally effusive praise for a rapporteur's accomplishment was absent both in statements and in the final resolution.

In a breach of diplomatic protocol that is almost unthinkable for the United Nations, the resolution failed to commend Lord Colville for his efforts, largely ignored his recommendations and urged that the commission look to other sources for a more definitive and comprehensive portrait.

Mr F. M. Hayes, the Irish representative to the commission expressed the views of many Western European governments, when he said that Lord Colville, as an example of the report's inadequacies, had confused a complete system of military control of the population with attempts at land reform. This referred to the setting up of "model villages" some of which have been documented by human rights organizations as reeducation camps.

Mr Hayes also took exception to the tone and substance Lord Colville's remark that human rights abuse would become less controversial "if the security forces could distinguish small babies and elderly people from villagers who may perhaps be realistically suspected of involvement in subversion if their activities could be less jealously guarded from honest inquiry."

Human rights organizations and members of Guatemala's opposition have questioned both the methods and substance of the Colville report. Senor Frank Lague, a member of the Unity Representation of Guatemalan Opposition called it a "cynical" document which began and ended with a preconceived notion that insurgent activity made the Guatemalan Government's actions if not justifiable, then understandable.

During his inquiry Lord Colville would not accept church sources and in referring to army harassment, abduction and killing of priests he says that "given the overt support by many of them for subversion this is hardly surprising."

Representatives from two human rights groups, Americas Watch and Washington Office for Latin America have decried as flippant the general tone of the report which lacks specific detail, data, dates names and places.

Aborigines bar singer from Ayers Rock

From Tony Daboudis, Melbourne

The BBC and Val Doonican, the singer have been refused permission by the traditional Aboriginal owners of Ayers Rock to film a programme at the site. The Federal Government returned Ayers Rock to the Aborigines last year.

Mr Richard Bradshaw, legal adviser to the Pitjantjatjara Council, which acts for the black owners, said yesterday. The Traditional owners felt that the filming of Val Doonican at Ayers Rock would be culturally inappropriate. It is appropriate for Aboriginal people to sing and dance at Uluru (the Aboriginal name for this rock) but not for white people.

The decision angered Mr Paul Everingham, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, who vigorously opposed the original decision to hand over ownership to Aborigines, claiming that it would jeopardize tourism.

Mr Everingham said he would be protesting to the Federal Minister for Tourism "in the strongest possible terms". He claimed that white supporters of the Aborigines with the Pitjantjatjara Council in Alice Springs had influenced the decision.



Val Doonican: The show can't go on.

Mr Mike Pearce, production manager of the BBC unit, described the decision "as like Australians in the London not being allowed to film Westminster Abbey, Tower Bridge or Buckingham Palace".

Mr Barry Cohen, minister for the Environment, said yesterday that the Aborigines would be asked to reconsider their decision. There had been 51 applications to film at the rock since 1977 of which 39 had been approved, seven refused and five were awaiting decision he said.

Male orderlies accused of hospital murder

From Our Correspondent Colombo

Six male nursing orderlies have been charged with the murder of a police sub-inspector when he was a patient in a hospital in the Sri Lankan capital.

They are accused of using knives and clubs to kill Inspector S. Easwaran during last July's disturbances.

The inspector, who was stationed at Matara in the south, was at home in Colombo on sick leave when he was attacked by a gang on July 29. The magistrate refused an application for bail. The case continues.

Uruguay frees top dissident after 10 years

Montevideo (APF) - Senor Liber Seregni, aged 65, Uruguay's best-known political prisoner, was freed on Monday night after nearly 10 years in prison.

Senor Seregni, a former general and a symbol of opposition to Uruguay's hard-line military regime, left Montevideo's central prison for his home in a presidential district.

He appeared on a balcony to acknowledge the cheers of flag-waving supporters shouting anti-government slogans and calling for a rebirth of the left-of-centre "Broad Front," at the head of which he unsuccessfully ran for President in 1971.

Abusive free-for-all marks Turkish poll

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

With only four days left before polling, the campaign for Turkey's local elections continues to be dominated by former politicians and invective.

The controversial election finally cleared by the Constitutional Court which overruled the objections of the parliamentary parties, has assumed the nature of a national plebiscite on the "legitimacy" of the Government headed by Mr Turgut Ozal, the conservative Prime Minister.

The Social Democratic Party (Sodep), the conservative Right Way Party and the Islamic fundamentalist Welfare Party, all excluded from last November's general election, have been allowed to contest in the coming poll, along with the three parties represented in the

400-seat Parliament, the ruling Motherland Party, the centre-left Populist Party and the right-centre Nationalist Democracy Party.

After a week of campaign rallies, the Nationalist Democracy Party, Populist and Welfare parties look to be pushed to the sidelines, leaving the other three freely abusing each other. The opponents of Mr Ozal's Motherland Party stake their hopes of defeating it, and therefore forcing early elections before the Government's five-year mandate ends - on the lingering allegations of the electorate to the pre-coup Justice Party - and the Republican People's Party, which traditionally represented the right, and left in Turkish politics, whose "true successors" they claim to be.

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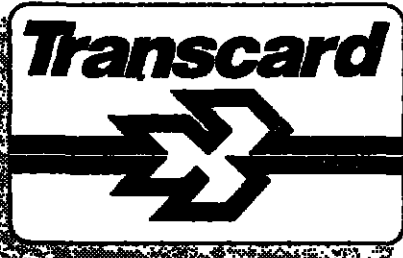
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Election fever rife as Israel faces prospect of divisive poll

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel has been thrust into political turmoil by the prospect of an early general election which would be the most divisive in the country's history, involving the issues of the war in Lebanon, the future of the occupied West Bank and inflation, now running at over 300 per cent.

Although no date has yet been set for the poll, members of Mr Yitzhak Shamir's shaky Likud coalition appeared resigned, after urgent discussions yesterday, that there is little chance of averting parliamentary moves designed to bring voting forward from the scheduled date in the middle of 1985.

After Cabinet meeting, Mr

COMPOSITION OF KNESSET

The Coalition:	
Likud	46
National Religious	5
Aquedat Yisrael	4
Techiya	3
Tami	3
Independent (Elected on Moshe Dayan's Tel Aviv list but later split)	2
Metzad (Splitter of NR Party)	1
TOTAL	64
The Opposition:	
Labour Alignment	50
Democratic Front (Communist)	2
Shinui	2
TOTAL	56

Avraham Sharir, the Tourism Minister, said: "I think the issue has been decided, we are going to have early elections. The question is when are they going to take place? This will be decided later according to what is best for the economy and the country."

The sudden rush of election fever - which led to meetings of all the main political parties - follows the decision of the small Tami party, a member of the coalition, to submit a Bill calling for the dissolution of the Knesset. It is expected to secure the 61 votes needed for a majority.

The dissolution Bill - which needs to pass four readings and two committee sessions before

becoming law - is due to be debated tomorrow along with four similar motions. If it passes, furious inter-party wrangling would ensue over exactly when the poll, the first since 1981, would take place.

One complicating factor was a threat by one of the Tami members, Mr Ben Zion Reuben, Deputy Social Affairs Minister, to convert the dissolution Bill into a vote of no confidence if the Government attempts filibustering tactics in committee to put back the poll until October or November.

Throughout the day, politicians and legal experts were arguing over the niceties of when would be the earliest that a poll could be held.

A successful vote of no confidence could open the way for the opposition Labour leader, Mr Shimon Peres, to try and form a new government within the present Parliament, but this is not thought feasible.

Senior Ministers, including Mr Shamir, who has only been Prime Minister since October, are known to be anxious to put off polling for as long as possible in the expectations of an improvement in Israel's disastrous economy and a further limited withdrawal in Lebanon.

While the right-wing Likud is looking towards the autumn, Labour under Mr Peres is anxious for a much earlier election to capitalize on its high ratings in the opinion polls. The most recent showed a 21 per cent lead.

Apart from the prospect of the Government reverting to the type of "election economics" that proved so successful in 1981, Labour is also concerned that a delay could lead to a new leadership struggle in the party.

All polls show that Mr Yitzhak Navon, Israel's former President, could command a much greater following if he were leader in place of Mr Peres.

It emerged yesterday that Mr Ezer Weizman, the popular former Defence Minister, is planning to run at the head of a new centre party.

Greeks cheer US retreat on Olympic flame

From Mario Modiano Athens

The Los Angeles organizing committee for the Olympic Games has agreed to drop a fund-raising plan linked to the relay of the Olympic flame through the United States, after Greek threats to stop the torch from leaving the site of the ancient Games if commercialization went ahead.

A member of the Greek Olympic committee last night said: "It is a victory for public opinion." The Americans de-

cided to abandon the idea "in consideration of the sensitivities of the Greek people". No fuss would be made over the millions of dollars already collected from the advance allocation of more than half of the run to sponsors.

The dispute might have resulted in ugly scenes at ancient Olympia on May 3 when the flame is due to be lit with traditional pomp from the rays of the sun focusing on a concave mirror. Mr Spyros Fotinos, the mayor, had vowed

to build a human wall to stop the flame from leaving the Altis, the sacred precinct.

The Los Angeles committee wanted the flame to be carried 12,000 miles across the United States, with 6,000 miles of the run open for sponsorship by companies at \$3,000 (about £2,000) a kilometre. The money would have been used to promote athletics among spas and other charities.

But the Greek committee, while vowing to cooperate in

the lighting and relay of the flame, refused to guarantee that the ceremony would be trouble-free. The mayor of Olympia organized a weekend international conference of athletes, intellectuals and academics in his city, which condemned the commercialization of the flame.

Mr Emil Zatopek, the legendary Czechoslovak Olympic long-distance runner, who attended the conference said: "The Olympic flame is sacred and not for sale. If the

Americans need money for worthy causes, let them save on the cost of a single missile."

The conference, attended by Professor Robert Browning, the chairman of the British Committee for the return of the Elgin Marbles, approved a resolution condemning the commercialization of the flame and another proposing a worldwide truce for the duration of this year's Games in a revival of the tradition of laying down the arms observed during the ancient Games.

Gromyko's deputy coming to London

By Henry Stanhope Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Georgi Kornienko, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, is to visit Britain on March 27 to 30, giving further proof of the improvement in Anglo-Soviet relations.

He was due to come last September, as a guest of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, but the invitation was postponed after the South Korean airliner was shot down.

The visit's renewal has long been seen as an indication of a warmer climate in London and Moscow, and possible dates have been under discussion since Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Stockholm in January.

East-West relations, arms control and Anglo-Soviet trade will be among the subjects for discussion - as will no doubt Sir Geoffrey's own July visit to Moscow which was announced last week.

Mr Kornienko, aged 59, is a career diplomat who has been spoken of for several years as a possible successor to the long-running Mr Gromyko himself.

He is an expert on the United States and on arms control, and speaks fluent English. He was an important rising star in Moscow during the years of détente, when he visited the United States and France with President Brezhnev, and is well-placed to work alongside Mr Gromyko for improved relations with the West.



Getting ahead: Archbishop John O'Connor of New York tries his mitre on an altar boy during his installation.

Senator goes green for votes

From Nicholas Ashford Chicago

Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, is normally the most reserved of men, his quiet-spoken, sober-suited demeanour being more that of a diplomat than a politician.

Yet there he was last Saturday, prancing round like a leprechaun during Chicago's St Patrick's Day parade in a brilliant green jacket and funny hat, shaking every outstretched hand he could grab hold of.

All Americans become Irish for the day on March 17 and tend to behave more exuberantly than usual. But there was another reason for Mr Percy's flamboyant attire and attention-grabbing behaviour.

The 64-year-old Illinois Republican is seeking another six-year term in the Senate and is facing the first primary challenge of his 18-year Senate career.

His Republican challenger is Representative Tom Corcoran, a 45-year-old right-winger who is against abortion, gun control and the Equal Rights Amendment. He has sought to portray himself as being more in tune with President Reagan than the "moderate" Senator Percy.

Although polls indicated that Mr Percy should easily brush aside Mr Corcoran's challenge, he has left nothing to chance. He has been campaigning hard round the state for months, and has spent over \$1.5m (£1m) in



an attempt to show voters that his seniority in the Senate is a political asset for Illinois.

Mr Percy's main concern is that if he does not achieve a convincing win in the primary, which was held yesterday, this could weaken his hand for the much tougher fight that awaits him in the November elections.

The Democrats have earmarked Illinois as one of the Senate seats they hope to win in their attempt to regain control of the Upper House this autumn.

Four Democratic contenders are vying for the opportunity to unseat Mr Percy. The two front-runners are representative Paul Simon, a liberal five-term congressman and former Lieutenant-Governor of Illinois, and Mr Alex Scith, a local lawyer who has tried and failed to be elected to the Senate on three previous occasions.

The two others are Mr Roland Burris, a black two-term congressman of Illinois, who is hoping to ride on a crest of black votes to victory, and Mr Philip Rock, the right-wing President of the state senate, who is considered a no-hoper

despite being endorsed by the Chicago political "machine".

Political observers say that Mr Simon, who has been the front-runner for most of the race, ought to win the nomination given his congressional experience and liberal record. But he has run an ineffective campaign and has become, in the words of one supporter, "the Walter Mondale of the Senate race".

Mr Scith, on the other hand, has spent \$800,000 (most of it his own money) on a skilful campaign which has transformed him from being a political joke into a strong challenger.

The Senate primaries were among a long list of electoral contests being held in Illinois yesterday. Altogether voters had 265 names to choose from for their nominees for the Presidency, Senate, House of Representatives, and a host of local posts ranging from sanitary district trustees to recorder of deeds.

The most bitterly fought were the 50-ward committee races in Chicago and the surrounding Cook County. These races are the key battleground in the struggle between Mr Harold Washington, Chicago's black mayor, and Alderman Edward "Fast Eddie" Vrdoljak, chairman of the Cook County Democratic Party, for control of the "machine" which has long been the dominant political force in America's second city.

Chrétien joins race to succeed Trudeau

Ottawa - Mr Jean Chrétien, Canada's Minister of Energy and Resources, yesterday entered the race for leadership of the governing Liberal Party and the job of Prime Minister (John Best writes).

Mr Chrétien, aged 50, a mill worker's son from Quebec, is the fifth declared candidate for the position now held by Mr Pierre Trudeau, who announced his intention to retire.

It is likely that Mr Chrétien will quickly emerge as the strongest challenger to Mr John Turner, the Toronto lawyer and former Cabinet minister, widely considered the front-runner. Mr Chrétien has 45 other Liberal MPs on his side, plus seven senators.

Rebel ambush in Mozambique

Johannesburg (AP) - Ten Mozambican soldiers guarding a road convoy were killed and eight lorries destroyed in a guerrilla ambush in northern Mozambique on Sunday, the South African press association reported yesterday. The ambush took place on the main road from Harare to Blantyre, Malawi.

Sapa quoted Mr Curtis, managing director of Truck Africa, as saying his firm lost one truck carrying tobacco. South Africa and Mozambique signed a non-aggression treaty on Friday.

125 Sikh youths sent to prison

Delhi (AP) - More than 125 young Sikh extremists were jailed in Punjab yesterday after a government order outlawing the All-India Sikh Students Federation.

Meanwhile, the police have brought sedition charges against Harchand Singh Longowal, president of the party leading the agitation in the state, for having written letters to heads of government during the nationwide strike last November, urging them to "save the Sikhs".

Jumbo drama

Perth (AFP) - An explosion and fire in one engine forced a British Airways jumbo, which had just taken off for London to circle over the Indian Ocean for an hour before landing again at Perth, Western Australia. The fire had been extinguished while the plane dumped fuel over the sea.

Island election

Victoria (AFP) - Presidential elections in Seychelles will be held in June, it was announced here. The Seychelles People's Progressive Front, the sole political organization, will hold a congress soon to select a candidate, but President René is expected to seek a second five-year term.

Admiral resigns

Brasilia (AFP) - Brazil's Navy Minister, Admiral Eduardo Maximiano Da Fonseca, resigned after arguing in favour of direct election of the President instead of an electoral college. He was replaced by Admiral Alfredo Karam, Navy Chief of Staff.

Pampas floods

Buenos Aires (AFP) - Torrential floods after heavy rains have forced the evacuation of 2,000 people in Argentina, cut off 100,000 others and drowned large numbers of cattle.

Horses killed

Tokyo (AP) - Fire broke out at a ranch in northern Japan killing 11 race horses valued at about 100m yen (£307,000). Six other thoroughbreds were saved.

Cholera deaths

Kaduna (AP) - A cholera epidemic has killed at least 10 children in several villages in Sokoto state in north-west Nigeria, Kaduna radio reported.

Boy sacrificed

Kuala Lumpur (AP) - A 16-year-old boy was beheaded and offered as a human sacrifice by a Chinese medium seeking the lucky number for a weekly lottery, the *New Straits Times* reported. The medium and three other men were arrested.

Migrant workers 'should be allowed to vote'

From Pat Healy, Strasbourg

Foreign workers should be given the right to vote in their host countries to stem the rising tide of racism and xenophobia in Europe, a Portuguese socialist in exile told a conference yesterday.

Senator Rudolfo Crespo was speaking at a conference in Strasbourg on the theme: "Aliens in Europe, a threat or an asset?" organized by the Council of Europe in response to widespread alarm at hostility towards foreigners in many parts of Europe.

Senator Crespo, who exiled himself to France during the Salazar dictatorship said he had witnessed the growing nationalism of the French with Algerians

Similar views were current in Portugal against migrants from its former colonies, typically those from the Cape Verde islands. "Our political system is at fault," Senator Crespo said. "Foreigners are a minority. They have no right to vote, so the political authorities cannot fully defend them against attack."

Hostility to migrants had already led to murders of black and foreign workers in Britain, France and West Germany and to growing calls for repatriation in what the Council of Europe sees as a vain hope that sending them all back would solve Europe's mass unemployment problem.



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Quake hits Soviet republics

Moscow (AP) - A huge earthquake struck the Soviet central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan early yesterday, destroying buildings in at least one town and one city and rocking the cities of Tashkent and Samarkand, Tass reported.

Tass made no mention of casualties in its first report from the area. It said the earthquake shook towns and cities on an 800-mile line from Tashkent south-west to Ashkhabad on the Soviet-Iranian border.

The agency said the earthquake hit hardest in Gazli, a small town severely damaged by a similar earthquake in 1976; the Uzbek city of Bukhara near the Uzbek-Turkmen border; and in the Turkmen city of Chardzhou just across the border.

Emergency aid was sent to the areas and both local and national emergency agencies had been mobilized.

Soviet authorities rarely specify damage and casualties from natural disasters. The fact that any damage was reported at all could indicate that the earthquake caused serious destruction. Tass said that it registered more than nine at the epicentre on the 12-point Medvedev scale, which is classified as "devastating".

Savage Peru murders Relatives fear cover-up over dead journalists

By Colin Harding

The savage murder of eight Peruvian journalists and their local guide in a remote Andean village hit world headlines early last year.

A commission of inquiry appointed by the Government in Lima concluded, after a brief investigation, that the reporters had been killed by mistake, by panic-stricken villagers who took them for marauding Maoist guerrillas who had been terrorizing the Ayacucho region of south-central Peru.

The relatives of the dead journalists were not convinced. There were too many loose ends, too many inexplicable details in the official version of what happened in the village of Uchuraccay on January 26, 1983.

Mothers and widows began to meet in each other's houses to discuss the case, and decided to hire lawyers to represent them in the judicial inquiry that was initiated as soon as the mutilated bodies of the journalists were discovered. Fourteen months later they are still pressing for the Peruvian courts to pronounce on the case.

"The judge's inquiries have gone nowhere," Señora Gloria Trelles de Mendivil said in London yesterday. Her 22-year-old son, Jorge Luis, was one of the eight victims of the Uchuraccay Massacre. She had come to Europe as representative of a Peruvian human rights organization in the hope of putting the case, and that of more than a hundred people who have "disappeared" in the Ayacucho guerrilla zone, to the United Nations Human Rights Com-

mission in Geneva. In the event she was bitterly disappointed when a Guatemalan representative was allotted the few minutes at the microphone that she had been promised.

Señora Mendivil has long since grown accustomed to disappointments. When she and other relatives of the dead journalists asked to see the wife of President Fernando Belaúnde last May they had to wait six months before she agreed to see them. There have been endless delays and postponements in the judicial investigation.

The relatives are now convinced that there was a political motive behind the killings and that a cover-up has been under way ever since. Señora Mendivil accepts that specific evidence for this is lacking, but she feels that so many delays and obstacles placed in the way of the judicial inquiry by the military authorities in Ayacucho must mean that they have something to hide.

Chrétien
joins race
to succeed
Trudeau

Rebel ambush
in Mozambique

125 Sikh youth
sent to prison

Jumbo drama

Island electric

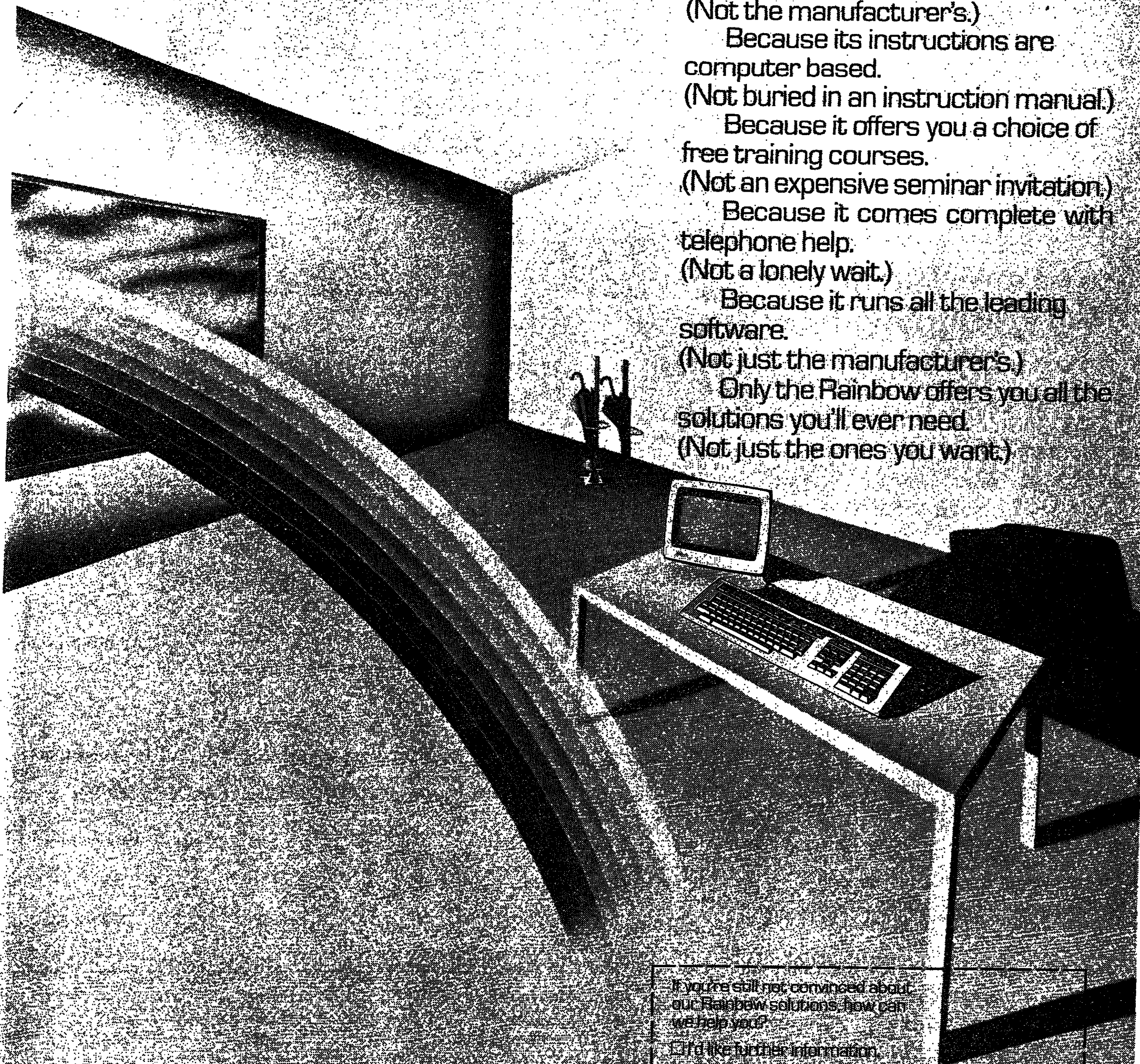
Amateurist

Plum as flow

Houses killed

... and death

workers 'shoveled to vote'



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Suspicion grows that Khartum launched raid on its own people

By Edward Mortimer

Suspicion that the aircraft which attacked the Sudanese city of Omdurman last Friday may have been Sudanese, and not Libyan as claimed by Khartum, is widely shared among Sudanese living in this country and British observers who know Sudan well.

Such suspicion is by no means confined to southern Sudanese opponents of the Nimeiry regime, such as Mr Joseph Oduho, whose public accusation of the Government was reported in *The Times* yesterday.

Mr Oduho said the aircraft took off from El Omdin in the west of the country. Other sources say that in fact it came from Wadi Sedna, a base north-west of Khartum, on the direct orders of President Nimeiry.

The target, according to these sources, was not the radio and TV station, only an annex of which was hit and which did not stop broadcasting at any point, but the house of the imprisoned opposition leader, Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, which is immediately opposite.

The raid followed a stormy interview between Mr al-Mahdi, a former Prime Minister and leader of the influential Ansar sect, and President Nimeiry, who had visited him in prison, apparently on the direct initiative of President Mubarak of Egypt.

The Egyptians, close allies of Sudan, are extremely worried about the degenerating political situation in the country and the political isolation of the regime.

The two presidents met in Aswan, Upper Egypt, on March 11, when Mr Mubarak apparently urged his Sudanese colleague to make a new effort to reach an understanding with Mr al-Mahdi, a moderate and respected opposition leader who has been in prison since last September when he criticized Mr Nimeiry's claim to be implementing Islamic law by ordering the amputation of thieves' hands.

President Nimeiry did visit Mr al-Mahdi in prison, according to a reliable source, and offered to release him if he would give assurances of good conduct in the future.

But Mr al-Mahdi was willing to be released only if all other political prisoners were freed with him, and the only assurance he would give were contingent on President Nimeiry implementing the Port Sudan agreement of 1977, in which he promised to introduce representative government and democratic participation. Mr Nimeiry was, it seems, incensed by this reply.

Field Marshal Abdul-Halim Abu-Ghazala, the Egyptian

Defence Minister, was officially said to have arrived in Khartoum from Cairo one and a half hours after the attack. Some sources say, however, that he was already there, on President Mubarak's instructions, for the precise purpose of ensuring that President Nimeiry went through with his attempt to reach an understanding with Mr al-Mahdi. Horrified by the air attack, he agreed to go along with the story that it was a Libyan raid to limit the political damage.

It is true, it bodes ill for future Egyptian support for President Nimeiry's regime. For the moment, however, this part of the story is unconfirmed. The Egyptians are supporting Sudan's complaint against Libya at the UN, but admit in private that they have no evidence to back it up. The Americans, who have sent AWACS aircraft to Egypt to help prevent any further attacks, say they do have some independent evidence of Libyan involvement, but it is not absolutely conclusive.

The British Government has made no official comment on responsibility for the attack, but Mrs Margaret Thatcher has sent a message of commiseration to President Nimeiry through the British Ambassador in Khartoum, Mr Richard Fytch-Walker.

Rebels in the south, riots in the north

Sudan slides into civil war with a demoralized army

By Carol Berger

One of the basic rules which has governed Sudan for the past five years is that patience is a virtue to be paid in oil revenue. Sudan's Western backers have certainly banked on it, and the burgeoning urban population has seen it as a reprieve from petrol shortages, high inflation and low earnings.

But none of this is likely to happen - at least not as long as President Gaafar Nimeiry is unable to come to terms with a problem in the south which just will not go away.

Last week's air raid on Omdurman in which, according to Khartoum, five people were killed, has highlighted the summer's tensions, affecting Africa's second largest oil producer. Sudan's oil exports, valued at \$1.5 billion a year, are the main source of its foreign exchange. The raid, which came just as the oil companies were about to start negotiations with the Government over a new oil law, has been seen as a sign of the regime's growing instability.

Organized violence, against the army and against the Government, has been spreading in the south since the summer. The army, which has been seen as the main force for stability, is now being seen as the main force for repression.

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regime. Riot police moved in and repeatedly charged the crowd. In another incident, a smaller group called for decisive action against the south and its destabilizing rebels. But the consensus remains that any military attempts would end in disaster.

The Army, given its lack of discipline and motivation, would probably spread rebel support across the region. Sudan it appears, will have to wait for a political, negotiated solution.

In the first week of February, rebels attacked the Chevron Oil Company's southern Sudan base. Three foreigners were killed and seven injured. The day after, Chevron began to close part of the operation. A week later, Chevron and President Nimeiry agreed to suspend all oil exploration until "political stability returns".

A decision to move southern oil fields to the Red Sea port of Port Sudan, which is being constructed, has been seen as a sign of the regime's growing instability.

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suspension of Chevron's investment means that will be delayed. And, as the domino effect continues, smaller but much-needed Western investors in the south will also pull out. Chevron was due to spend about \$230m (£150m) on oil exploration and recovery this year.

On February 10, southern rebels attacked an army base south of Malakal in the Upper Nile region. Next to the beleaguered base was the Jonglei Canal camp of the French company, CCI. Since November, when nine CCI workers were kidnapped by rebels, no work has been done on the massive canal project. The latest attack, according to the rebels, was because CCI was helping the Army with surveillance in the area.

In the five hours of fighting, more than 40 soldiers, workers and local civilians were killed. The rebels, who are now in control of the area, have been seen as the main force for repression.

Many Khartoum residents, however, say the army has not won a victory in the past year. It has been seen as the main force for repression.

The Army to avoid an eventual coup. And, as observers note, he has succeeded. Starting with the removal of his Chief of Staff and other high-ranking officers, he has reduced the military establishment to cliques and quietly removed or retired those who emerge as clique leaders.

American military aid was directed towards maintenance and build-up of army transport capabilities. These plans were ineffective. Lorries are no better maintained today than they were five years ago. The Army has become an immobile, demoralized and leaderless mass. It is a poor time to allow a new civil war to begin.



Guerrilla war: Members of a Nicaraguan counter-insurgency unit near the Honduras border, where rebels have been fighting Nicaraguan regular army forces.

On the Salvador campaign trail

The rise and rise of D'Aubuisson

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The electoral campaign of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's Republican Nationalist Alliance (ARENA) reached its symbolic climax this week with the biggest, most colourful rally yet, gathering 12,000 people in a San Salvador football stadium draped with the party's red, white and blue colours.

Representatives of the landowning, business and professional classes seated nearest to Major D'Aubuisson in the noisy stadium, hung on his every word, shrieking with laughter as he poured practised abuse on the Christian Democratic opposition and applauded with fervour when he appealed to their sense of Salvadoran nationalism pride to pull the country out of its communal-ridden mire.

The extraordinary rise of the cashed major - a wiry, handsome man of 40 - since he founded ARENA less than three years ago is owed principally to his shrewd perception that the widespread terror of communism felt by the dominant classes could be channelled, urged by the rallying cry

of *nacionalismo* into a vigorous political force. "That's D'Aubuisson's great achievement, little recognized", said Señor Mario Valiente, director-general of the American Chamber of Commerce in El Salvador.

There are many of us who felt alone, under a psychosis of fear generated by the guerrillas. He reoriented all these threatened forces and fused them into an ordered political party", Señor Valiente added.

Born into a lower-middle-class family in 1943, D'Aubuisson set out in 1958 to rise socially in time-honoured Salvadoran fashion - he embarked on a military career.

Major D'Aubuisson attended the International Police Academy in Washington and the US Military School in Panama in the early 1960s and graduated at the Salvadoran Military Academy, with little distinction, in 1963. He then took psychological warfare courses in Uruguay and Taiwan, became an intelligence officer in the highly professional, jackbooted National Guard, and in the late

1970s rose to second-in-command of Ansesal, a special force for processing information from political prisoners.

In October, 1979, there was a coup by moderate officers and he was expelled from the Army for his extreme political views and dubious record in human rights. In May, 1980, he was arrested for his part in planning an alleged right-wing coup attempt, but was freed three days later.

The major fled to neighbouring Guatemala, where he acquainted himself at first hand with Latin American counter-insurgency tactics untrammelled by the conditions American aid imposes. He also forged close contacts there with the exiles and embittered Salvadoran rich.

Major D'Aubuisson returned from Guatemala, founded ARENA in August, 1981, and in less than a year became president of the Constituent Assembly after joining forces with other right-wing parties after elections in March, 1982. It is widely believed, however, that his meteoric rise is

owed not just to a keen political eye but also to his proficiency in the traditional Salvadoran art of terror.

There is compelling evidence that Major D'Aubuisson is the leader of the country's death squads, responsible for many thousands of deaths in recent years, and that he ordered the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the champion of the poor, in March, 1980.

The United States has twice denied Major D'Aubuisson an entry visa in the past four months because of his unseemly associations. The possibility is always being raised that the United States will cut off, or severely restrict, aid to El Salvador if Major D'Aubuisson becomes President in next Sunday's elections.

But Major D'Aubuisson uses this to political advantage with his followers, who are increasingly dependent on the country's inability to check the growing left-wing guerrilla threat despite - or, as many of them see it, because of - \$1,000m (£714m) worth of American help.

British observers fly in

The two British observers for Sunday's presidential elections have arrived in El Salvador, both eager to emphasize that their task will be substantially more than a mechanical scrutiny of the poll (John Carlin writes, San Salvador).

Their official brief is "to report on the elections, having regard to the particular circumstances of the country at the present time".

Sir James Swaffield and Dr David Browning both interpreted this as meaning that they could choose their own plan of action, who they would see and where they would go, "to get a representative view from all sectors in El Salvador".

Sir James recently retired as director-general of the Greater

London Council, where he served for 40 years. A solicitor by profession, he has wide first-hand knowledge of the mechanics of an election. In London, for example, he ran the referendum for entry into the EEC.

Dr Browning is a geography lecturer at Oxford University, married to a Salvadoran. In 1971 he published a book on the history of agricultural development in El Salvador.

The two said they would very much like to go to the war-torn east of the country, though keeping "as low a profile as possible".

Their mission is at the instigation of the British Government, to which they will report their findings.

Stoph's niece arrives in West

From Michael Binyan, Bonn

The niece of Herr Willi Stoph, the East German Prime Minister, arrived with her family in West Germany yesterday less than three weeks after their return to East Berlin from the West German Embassy in Prague where they had sought political asylum.

Frau Ingrid Berg crossed the inner-German frontier with her husband and two small children in a grey Soviet-built car and drove to the emergency reception centre for East German immigrants at Giessen, near Frankfurt. Her mother-in-law, who also spent six days in the Prague Embassy in an attempt to flee to the West, was apparently not with them.

The Bergs left their house in the south-eastern suburbs of Berlin yesterday morning and crossed the border near Eisenach. They will probably stay two days in Giessen, where they will be given West German papers and registered along with the hundreds of other East Germans now arriving there each day.

The Bonn Government, which negotiated the exit of the Bergs from the Prague Embassy and obtained unofficial assurances from the East Germans that they would be allowed to immigrate speedily, yesterday refused all comment on the family's arrival.

The flood of emigrants meanwhile has shown no signs of stopping, though Herr Heinrich Windelen has given a warning against exaggerated hopes of the numbers allowed out. He said the present wave was a one-time action during which the East German authorities were getting rid of people who might be a potential nuisance.

Since the beginning of this year some 10,000 East Germans, many of whom had applied to emigrate several years ago, have been allowed to leave for West Germany.

Tory MPs urge direct talks with Argentina

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister is being urged by Conservative backbenchers to reconsider his attitude to direct talks with the Argentine.

She said in the Commons last Thursday: "It would be difficult to restore diplomatic relations until Argentina said that hostilities towards us had permanently ceased."

But a group of 28 backbenchers yesterday tabled a Commons motion saying that it was "in the immediate interests" of the United Kingdom, the Falkland Islands and Argentina that direct diplomatic links should be restored.

The MPs include Mr Stephen Dorrell (Loughborough) Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr Peter Walker, Secretary for Energy, Mr Peter Bottomley (Eltham), PPS to Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr Kenneth Carlisle (Lincoln) a PPS to junior Home Office ministers.

Indonesia tries to mend its fences with Asean partners

From David Watts, Singapore

Indonesia moved swiftly last night to patch up a growing rift with its partners in the Association of South-East Asian Nations over Cambodia.

Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Foreign Minister, set out on a hastily arranged fence-mending mission, flying to Bangkok with later stops scheduled in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

His mission is twofold - to reassure Asean partners that Indonesia's common policy initiative with Australia is

trying to woo the Vietnamese is not getting too far ahead of his more conservative Thai colleagues, and to brief the other members on the tour just concluded by the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach.

Mr Nguyen Co Thach has raised hopes of a breakthrough by asserting that Vietnam is willing to discuss Cambodia as a priority issue. The new Vietnamese formula would exclude discussion of Soviet use of military facilities in Vietnam, which suits the Indonesians

because they are not unhappy to see the Russians there as a counter-balance to the Chinese.

Vietnam has always insisted previously that regional security must be examined as a whole, taking into account the Chinese threat, American bases in the Philippines, and US access to Thai facilities.

After his talks in Jakarta and Canberra, Mr Nguyen Co Thach proposed that Australia, Indonesia and Vietnam should contact other governments to "find some appropriate forum for discussions".

When Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, first proposed last year that Australia play a "facilitating" role in the search for a Cambodian solution, there was consternation and scepticism in Asean - consternation because Australia appeared to be about to resume aid to Vietnam without seeking a *pro quid pro*, and scepticism that a rather inexperienced, left-leaning Government in Canberra could produce results where all others had failed.

The Australians, however,

carefully excluded all talk of resumed aid while Mr Nguyen Co Thach was there and have found a good deal of common ground with both the Vietnamese and the Indonesians.

The strongest common denominator is the desire to exclude the Khmer Rouge from the Cambodian equation. The Vietnamese, who predict the Khmer Rouge would immediately take over Cambodia again should they leave, found support from leading Indonesian policy-makers at a seminar in Hanoi.

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Indian dock strike death toll rises to 7

Delhi (AFP) - The death toll from Monday's clashes involving rival factions of dock workers and police in the eastern port of Paradip rose to seven yesterday. Five hundred people were injured.

The clashes came as a nationwide strike by some 300,000 dockers seeking higher pay went into its fifth day, paralysing the country's 10 largest ports, including Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, and stranding dozens of ships at an estimated cost of several million dollars a day.

Reports yesterday said the dead included five policemen killed as they tried to prevent a clash between unionized dockers and independent longshoremen. Police said 120 people had been arrested.

A state of emergency has been declared to cope with the tense situation but security forces claimed they were in control, and the Navy had been placed on full alert to protect port installations.

Crude bombs were hurled at the police, who were also attacked by about 1,000 independent dock workers armed with knives and guns, according to the Press Trust of India.

Police had to open fire to quell the rioters who also set fire to hundreds of huts belonging to independent dock workers, the agency added.

Paradip's unionized dock workers affiliated to the pro-Congress (Mrs Gandhi's party) Indian National Trade Union Congress (Intuc) have been on strike since March 9.

Another group, meanwhile, set up a new organization called the Forwarding and Clearing Workers' Pool to carry on loading and unloading of cargo into wagons and lorries.

Fearing a defection of members to the new workers pool, about 1,000 armed Intuc-affiliated workers moved against the independents.

Meanwhile on Monday in Tuticorin, in the eastern coastal state of Tamil Nadu, troops unloaded a cargo of 23,000 tons of coal destined for the city's electrical power plant without intervention from local port workers.



Border protest: French drivers with their lorries blocking the frontier at Irun.

Frontier blockage traps 1,500 lorries

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Some 1,500 lorries were held up yesterday on both sides of the Franco-Spanish frontier at Irun as angry French lorry drivers kept up a blockade of the access roads. They were protesting over continued burning by Spanish fishermen of French vehicles.

The only people able to cross the main frontier were pedestrians or motor cyclists. Private motorists were told to go either by a small frontier post still open in neighbouring Navarra, or through Catalonia.

The blockade by about 100 French lorries was in reply to the worst day's toll yet. On Monday five French-owned lorries in a convoy protected by Basque police were ambushed on a mountain pass by more than 100 fishermen armed with sticks.

The attackers threw petrol bombs at the lorries, fought the police and later prevented firemen from tackling the blaze. Seven French lorries were destroyed on Spanish roads on Monday.

A total of 22 French lorries has been destroyed by the Basque fishermen who aim to prevent any fish from EEC countries entering Spain after the recent incident when a French naval patrol fired on two Spanish trawlers fishing illegally in the Bay of Biscay.

A spokesman of the French lorry drivers at Irun threatened to extend the blockade to Catalonia. Basque trawler owners meanwhile are threatening to return in force to the Bay of Biscay.

Amnesty report alleges torture in Quebec jail

By Henry Stanhope

Allegations of torture or ill-treatment of prisoners in a Canadian jail years ago are made by Amnesty International today.

It says there are "reasonable grounds" for believing the offences, said to have occurred after a riot at Archambault Institution in Quebec.

In some of the more serious incidents, prisoners were alleged to have had tear gas sprayed

into their mouths and to have been kept naked in their cells for up to three weeks, beaten, deprived of sleep and "choked" by wet towels.

Amnesty sent a fact-finding mission to the maximum-security prison, where three guards and two prisoners died in the preceding riots in April last year. It received "full cooperation" from the Canadian Government.

Tanzanians held for six years without trial

Dar es Salaam (AP) - Nearly 4,000 people have been held for as long as six years in Tanzanian jails awaiting trial because of incomplete police investigations and failures by courts to hear their cases, a senior official has disclosed.

The Deputy Home Minister, Mr Hamad Rashid Mohamed, was quoted in yesterday's *Daily News* as complaining that "such delays deny the people justice".

Tax relief for life tenant's farmland

Finch and Others v Commissioners of Inland Revenue
Re: Lord Justice Oliver, Lord Justice O'Connor and Lord Justice Dillon
[Judgment delivered March 14]

Land in the possession of a life tenant immediately before his death and used by him in his farming business came within paragraph 3 of Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1976 - the provision giving relief from capital transfer tax on "transfers of value" of business property.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, so held. Lord Justice Dillon dissenting, in allowing an appeal by the trustees of the Good Co. estate against a capital transfer tax determination made by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue following the death of the life tenant, Mr Edward Watkin Williams Wynn.

The court reversed the decision of Mr Justice Vinelott (The Times, December 13, 1982; [1983] STC 157) who, refusing to grant the trustees a declaration that they should be entitled to the relief sought, had held that the settled land did not qualify as "relevant business property".

Section 100 (1)(3) of the Finance Act 1981 now applies to "transfers of value" of settled land made after March, 1981.

Mr D. C. Potter, QC and Mr David Shirley for the trustees; Mr Jonathan Parker, QC and Mr Michael Hart for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE OLIVER said that by paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 10 where the value transferred by a transfer of value was attributable to the value of any relevant business property made after April 6, 1976, the value transferred was to be treated as reduced by 30 per cent.

Paragraph 3(1) of that Schedule went on to define "relevant business property". Paragraph 6 provided that for the purposes of Schedule 10 the value of a business was to be

taken to the value which would be its net value if determined under paragraph 14(2) of Schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1975.

Paragraph 14(2) provided that "the net value of a business is the value of the assets used in the business (including goodwill) reduced by the aggregate amount of any liabilities incurred for the purposes of the business".

The life tenant had died in 1977. The claim by the trustees was in respect of some 257 acres of land that he had occupied immediately before his death for the purpose of his farming business.

They claimed that that land constituted "relevant business property" for the purpose of paragraph 2 of Schedule 10 and that accordingly in so far as the deceased's estate was attributable to the value of that property that latter value fell to be reduced in accordance with the provisions of that Schedule. The Revenue had declined to accept that.

The trustees' primary argument was that paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 10 defined "relevant business property" as including "property consisting of a business or an interest in a business" and that paragraph 6 directed that the value of a business was taken to be what would be its net value if determined under paragraph 14(2) of Schedule 4 to the 1975 Act.

When reference was made to that paragraph it was seen that the net value was "the value of the assets used in the business". It was beyond doubt, they contended, that the relevant portion of the settled land was "used in the business" and accordingly since its value formed part of the value transferred on the death, it fell within the definition of "relevant business property". Any other conclusion, they said, would lead to anomalous and even capricious results.

For the Crown it was argued; (1)

Under paragraph 14(2) of Schedule 4, the assets to be taken into account were only those that could be described as assets of the business and did not include land in which the deceased had no more than a beneficial life interest. While therefore the business of a farmer who was a freeholder of the land would comprise the farmland, the same could not apply where the farmer had merely a limited interest.

(2) In the context of paragraphs 3 and 6 of Schedule 10, the provisions of paragraph 14 were not to be treated as provisions defining the business - they were valuation provisions only. The only relevant description was "property consisting of a business" in paragraph 3(1)(a) and such property would not ordinarily be said to include land in which the deceased had only a limited interest.

(3) Even if the deceased's life interest fell to be counted as an asset for valuation purposes, it should be valued only as a life interest disposed of by a disposition deemed to take place the moment before death and thus as an asset having no value.

Mr Justice Vinelott had decided the point in favour of the Crown primarily as a matter of the construction of paragraph 14(2) of Schedule 4.

His Lordship considered the points made by the Crown and rejected them. He continued saying that the case was to be approached by considering the position under the 1975 Act.

One had to take as the starting point section 21 and paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 3 to that Act: it was only by virtue of those provisions that the value of settled land came to be comprised at all in the transfer of value which was deemed to take place immediately prior to a death. Those provisions were in general terms and not for any limited

purpose. They directed that the person beneficially entitled in possession in settled property was to be treated as beneficially entitled to the property in which the interest subsisted.

One had then to ascertain what proportion of the notionally transferred value was represented by the deceased's business. If one asked "of what property did the deceased's business consist immediately prior to his death", the answer was that it included whatever interest he had in the land and buildings with which it was carried on.

Accordingly, the life interest had for paragraph 14(2) purposes to be one of the assets used in the business whose value had to be taken into account. But the value of that asset was part of the value included in the chargeable transfer that was deemed to have taken place, and for that purpose had statutorily to be treated as if it were the interest of an absolute owner.

Moreover, there was no reason for that asset to be included at a value less than that statutorily attributed to it in the overall valuation of the transfer of value.

His Lordship said that he would allow the appeal. The appropriate declaration was that in ascertaining the net value of the business of the deceased life tenant for the purposes of paragraph 14 of Schedule 4 to the 1975 Act and paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 10 to the 1976 Act, account was to be taken of the value of the appropriate acreage of the settled land.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR delivered a concurring judgment.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON, dissenting, said that he had not found the question raised by the appeal at all easy but had in the end come to the same decision as had Mr Justice Vinelott and for substantially the same reasons.

Solicitors: Lee & Pemberton; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Rent Acts concession

Regina v Bloomsbury and Marylebone County Court, Ex parte Blackburne

A county court judge did not have the jurisdiction to make a consent order in an action for the recovery of possession of premises let on a protected tenancy or subject to a statutory tenancy within section 98(1) of the Rent Act 1977 unless he had obtained from the tenant or his legal representative the concession that the tenant was not entitled to protection of the Rent Acts.

Mr Justice Gildewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 7 in quashing the consent order made by Judge Curtis-Railey in the Bloomsbury and Marylebone County Court that the applicant, David Blackburne, was required to give up possession of a ground floor

and basement flat to the landlords.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the order itself showed that the landlords had conceded that a valid tenancy existed even though it might be construed that the tenant was agreeing he did not have a contractual tenancy. The vital question was whether the tenant was resident within the meaning of the Rent Acts.

When considering whether the landlord was entitled to possession the judge had to consider whether the tenant was entitled to the protection of the Rent Acts: see *Thorne v Smith* (1947) 1 KB 307.

The judge should have pressed the tenant or his representative to say that he was conceding the tenant was not entitled to the protection of the Rent Acts.

Applicant cross-examined

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Mannel

Mr Justice McNeill, hearing an application in the Queen's Bench Division on March 15 for judicial review of detention and removal orders which the secretary of state had made against the applicant because he believed that the applicant was an illegal immigrant by reason of his having fraudulently obtained clearance to enter the United Kingdom by tendering false documents, granted an application on behalf of the secretary of state to have the applicant called for the purpose of being cross-examined.

HIS LORDSHIP, having considered what the House of Lords had said in *O'Reilly v Mackman* (1983) 2 AC 237, 282 and in *R v*

Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Khawaja (1984) AC 74, (24-5), said that he was satisfied that this was a proper case to allow the cross-examination of the applicant.

An important factor had been that counsel for the applicant had at an early stage offered his client for cross-examination. His Lordship had a reservation whether an applicant could so tender himself, but that difficulty had been resolved by the secretary of state's application.

On March 16, his Lordship granted an order of certiorari.

In *Orwell Steel Ltd v Asphalt and Tarmac Ltd* (The Times March 15) the reference to Order 28 RSC should have read Order 29.

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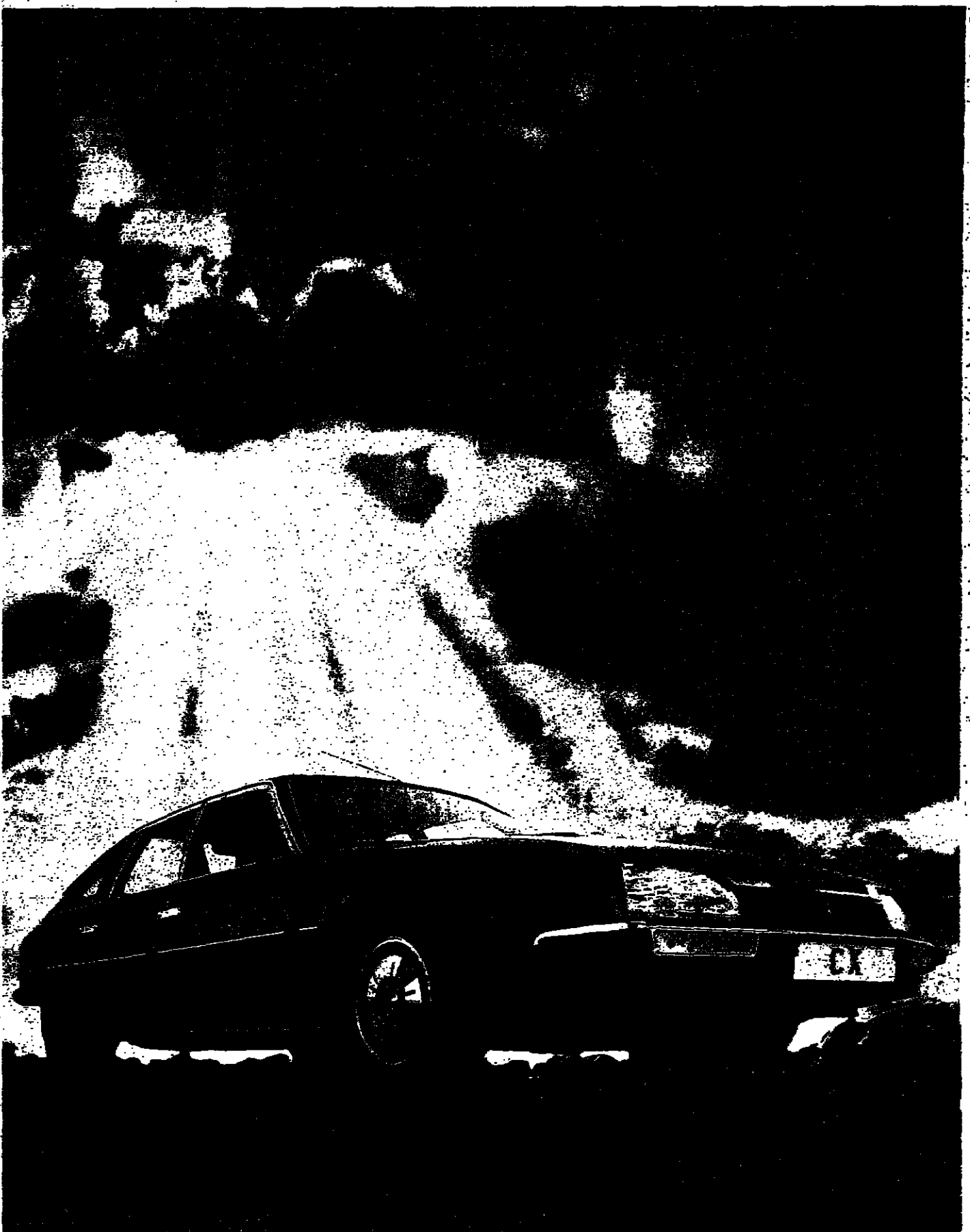
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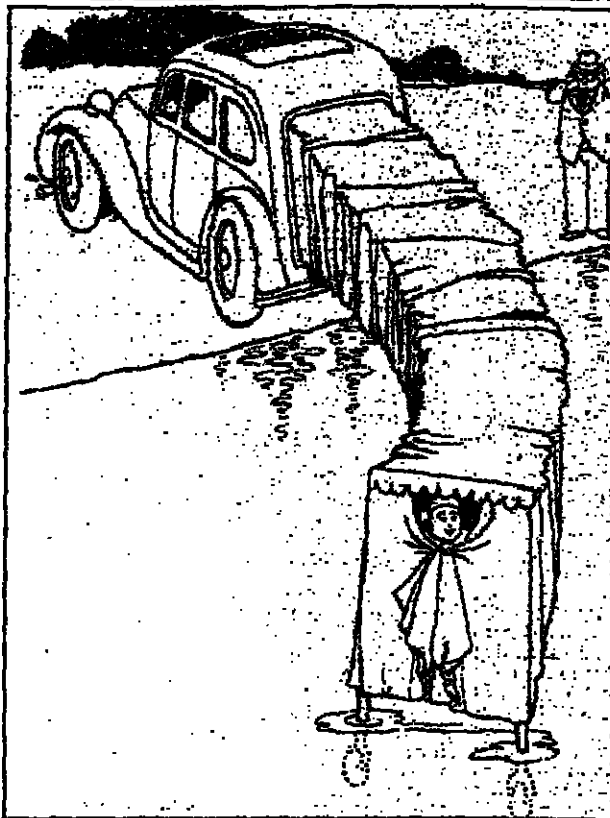
The style is inimitable, the content unmistakable. Artifacts of labyrinthine complexity, dedicated to the most inessential task, pay tribute to the skill and wit of the most popular visual satirist of the Machine Age (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

William Heath Robinson, an important new exhibition of whose works has opened in London, was a modest, retiring and sober man who by the time of his death in 1944 had given a new phrase to the English language. Ingenuity, and technology, would never be quite the same again.

But Robinson, before the Lamson Paragon Supply Company tempted him into intricacies of illustrating coke ovens and marmalade factories, was a brilliant and original illustrator and it is as much with this aspect of his work that the exhibition will deal.

Mr Chris Ewell, who is staging it at his gallery in Chelsea, describes it as the biggest ever commercial exhibition of Robinson's works. Seventy original are for sale and the spread is comprehensive, from the fantasy illustrations for the Hans Andersen fairy tales and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to the cartoons in contemporary journals such as *The Strand*.

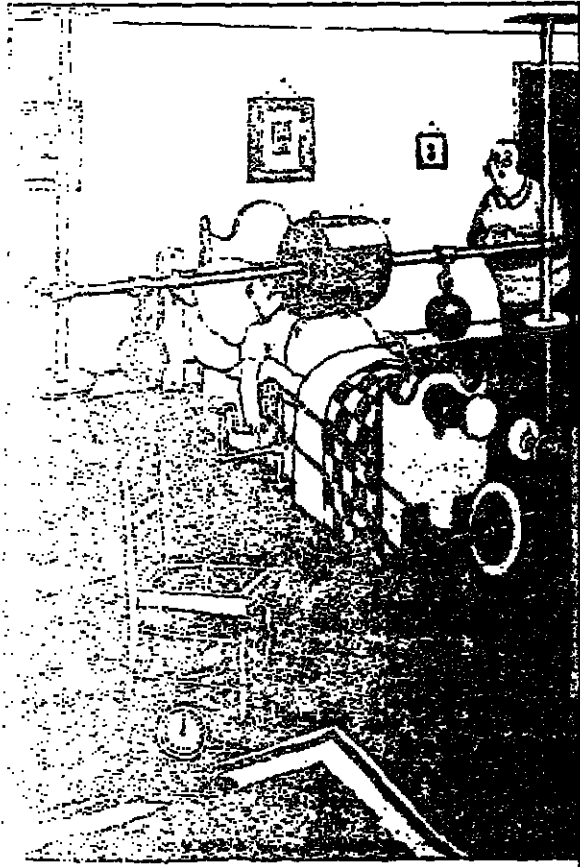
But there will be a selection of what is seen as the quintessential Heath Robinson: *The Peaceful Conversion of a Torpedo to a Foot Warmer*, for example.



The Modesty Bathing Car.



Sagacity of Indian elephant in saving master's life.



The New Banting Bed for reducing the figure.



Ingenuously disguised periscope off the Margate coast observing an enemy.



A new method of training young German ski troops to do the goose step on the frozen steppes of Russia.

A video thriller to
scale the hypes

The video of the video arrives in Britain on March 30, and, if the United States is anything to go by, it will herald the birth of a new form of music business hype.

Making Michael Jackson's *Thriller* a video record of the black American singer's biggest recent single and the direction of the promotional film for it by John Landis, the former 20th Century Fox mail boy who went on to make *The Blues Brothers*, *An American Werewolf in London*, and, most recently, *Trading Places*.

The 14-minute film of the song failed to impress the BBC, which thought necromancy a-go-go - the video is shot as a modern horror movie - a little too strong for *Top of the Pops*.

It later surfaced on Channel 4, and might have rested there (the music is repetitive, even with a Vincent Price voice-over, and the style too predictable) were it not for the neat idea of tagging 44 minutes of narcissism on the end.

It has also turned an ephemeral pop product into a new form of home video hard sell. Vestron, the US video company which seized on the idea, says it expects 60,000 copies to be shipped initially into Britain which, at nearly £20 a time, represents a potential turnover of £1.2m, a third of that profit going to the retailer. Sales of at least 150,000 are claimed in the US - a music video record.

This may annoy Jackson's record company, CBS, a little. It was slow to get in on the video act and left the field open to Vestron, a company which includes adult fare like *The Art of Making Love* and *Ultravox* among its US offerings. Still, with 23 million internal sales of the *Thriller* album to its credit, a record for a solo artist, CBS can hardly grumble.

The success of the video in the US has tempted Woolworth's, which shut down its video sales two years ago because of piracy, back into the market. Vestron also believes it will conclude a sales deal with Boots, a newcomer to the business.

Until the Jackson film came along, there was a sluggish trade in compilations of promotional films. Britain's fascination with video tape recorders, and the arrival of stereo VCRs and television sets on the market, could make a successful music cassette, bought not rented, more money-spinning than the average cinema release.

At the moment, pop promotion films are primarily directed at gaining exposure for a record on programmes like *Top of the Pops* and Channel 4's *The Tube* in Britain, and the cable TV music channels in the US. The rewards, for the lucky ones, are great. Duran Duran's promotional video for their single, "Hungry Like the Wolf," was judged to be one of the prime factors in establishing them as one of the biggest British names in the US.

What sets Jackson's video apart is the participation of John Landis, and it may be that the cassette is selling to film buffs as much as Jackson fans. Landis was selected for the job on the strength of *An American Werewolf in London*. With the special effects of make-up man Rick Baker in tow, Landis set out to turn 25-year-old Jackson into a werewolf. Those bulging face muscles and slit eyes on the screen turn out to be the product of pounds of latex, tiny inflatable bladders, and some uncomfortable contact lenses. The video offers the chance for some unabashed keyhole-peering for Landis fans.

The opportunity would never exist without the current Jackson superstar bandwagon, of course. The reclusive star could pick up \$100m from a concert tour this year alone, if, as his advisers want, the Jackson name goes into retailing clothing and perfume lines. It all seems a long way from the last black child prodigy turned superstar, Stevie Wonder. But that was when the only message was the music.

David Hewson

moreover... Miles Kington

Goodgrass heads for his tax heaven

The first Briton in space may well be a handsome officer from the Inland Revenue. Chief Tax Inspector Stephen Goodgrass. Along with equally good looking officers from the other services, Stephen has been chosen as one of the men who may play a vital role in the 1988 American Space Shuttle project.

"I think they were looking for three qualities basically," says Stephen Goodgrass modestly. "Modesty, of course. Then extremely striking good looks. And finally medium height, so that none of us looks taller than Michael Heseltine in photographs."

In the Inland Revenue, Stephen has worked with figures every day of his life, so the highly complex technology involved in the American space shot does not frighten him. He and Britain's other hopefuls will

be taking regular trips to America to master the techniques and, with luck, get on the Johnny Carson show. He thinks that the Americans might even learn something from us. "They're highly sophisticated, of course," he says, "but in some fields such as the taxation of a married woman's income and allowances on a company car registered as a family trust, we are way ahead of them. I have shown the Americans some of our tax forms and they just can't figure them out. Nor can our taxpayers, I tell them."

This wizardry with figures will come in useful in the 1988 space shot, which is partly designed to flash results of exit polls in that year's presidential elections round the world faster than ever. Does that mean that Stephen will be in space for the

whole nine months of the election? "Well, yes, it does really," says 35-year-old Stephen, running his fingers through his attractive crinkly brown hair. When he smiles, laugh lines form round his eyes like small print in a tax return. "This means we shall need at least three outstanding qualities: the patience of a hawk, the stamina of a camel and the quick wittedness of a head waiter in a crowded restaurant. And believe me, as a tax inspector I know some of the tricks a quick-witted head waiter can get up to."

Stephen is extremely fit. He has taken part in all the London marathons so far and, through some complicated health insurance scheme which I failed to understand, has made a lot of money out of all of them. But

he reckons that the money to be made out of the 1988 space shot will dwarf all that.

"Being in orbit for most of 1988 I would be able to establish tax-free foreign residency, but that's just the start of it. Everyone knows the money's being made out of off-shore companies; nobody has begun to explore the possibilities of off-planet investment. Up there in the sky I shall establish a tax haven - or perhaps a tax heaven - which is subject to no known international law. Perhaps we could have our own postage stamps as well."

Meanwhile, training starts in earnest for Stephen and the others this year at Britain's newly opened space charm school, where he will learn the three essential qualities needed to be an astronaut: a pleasant

speaking voice, which sounds quite sexy even 50,000 miles away, an ability to deal with television chat hosts and the moral strength to resist the temptation to go into politics. John Glenn made a profit as a spaceman and ended up £5m in debt as a candidate. There is a lesson to be learnt here, thinks Stephen, whose sculptured profile has already brought him several film offers, plus an invitation to review the newspapers on Breakfast Television. He is unforthcoming about his politics, though under pressure he admits to liking David Owen's haircut.

"I have a job to do," he says modestly. "That's all there is to it. Whatever I do, I shall be doing for Britain, or for whatever nationality I choose to take for tax purposes."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 297)

- ACROSS
1 Fence stake (6)
4 12th Zodiac sign (6)
7 Slaughtered (4)
8 Conspire (8)
9 Door strikers (8)
13 Engine count (1,1,1)
15 Hurry up (6)
16 Head cold (6)
17 Faint (3)
19 Indian prince (8)
24 Support (8)
25 Eager (4)
26 Intoxicated (6)
27 Light bell sound (6)
- DOWN
1 100 centavos (4)
2 Split skin (9)
3 Broad (5)
4 Prison cell (5)
5 Surface (4)
6 Furnish (5)
10 Milk top (5)
11 Animal track (5)
12 Iceland capital (9)
13 Grumble (4)

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26					
14	Discard (4)				
15	American eskimo (5)				
20	Improve (5)				
21	Useful thing (5)				
22	Berkshire college (4)				
23	Timber axe (4)				

SOLUTION TO No 296
ACROSS: 1 Usable 5 Path 8 Rheum 9 Gimmick 11 Confere 13 Boon
15 Vive le roi 18 Lore 19 Paranoia 22 Stirrup 23 Razor 24 Pony
25 Embalm
DOWN: 2 Sheen 3 Bum 4 Edgar Allan Poe 5 Pomp 6 Tripoli 7 Brick
10 King 12 Rave 14 Aria 15 Verigo 16 Plus 17 Laird 20 Ouzel
21 Fry 23 Rob

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

The ready-wrapped childminder

Bailey Morris on
the big business
of day care

Washington. They are called "Kentucky-fried children" a made-in-USA phenomenon. These 62,000 pre-schoolers lodged in 800 standardized day-care centres in 40 American states and the lower parts of Canada. For fees ranging from \$28 to \$60 a week, they are picked up at home in smart mini-buses bearing the grinning visage of a mascot called Kindercoo and carried off to a nursery-school version of Disneyland.

Once there, in a prefabricated twentieth-century version of the little schoolhouse on the prairie - complete with plastic red schoolbell tower and monogrammed pennant - they are fed, exercised and taught a variety of skills. Some even have access to home computers with toddler-level software.

This is the world of Kindercoo, a for-profit system of mass-produced childcare which has swept the US since its introduction in 1969. In 1984 alone, the company will open more than 125 centres in new suburban areas inhabited largely by college-trained couples who work to afford a contemporary lifestyle of three-bedroom houses, two-car garages, two cars and increasingly, two children.

But despite the clear commercial success of the programme - Kindercoo's net earnings jumped by 68 per cent last year to \$11.2m (about £7.5m) - the strong need of working parents, the Orwellian concept of mass-programming a new generation of children has sparked a serious debate, even among the company's own staff.

The debate is over the kind of adults these centre-trained children will turn out to be in the twenty-first century. Will they be bored men and women who avoid books and misuse language because of inadequate exposure to quality material? Will they be passive - easily led, after years of being made to sit quietly in large groups for periods beyond the normal endurance of a curious two-year-old?

Will they be insecure after being scuttled from centre to home, being



Standing in line: What kind of adults will these mass-programmed children make?

cared for by a constantly changing series of adults in the early years when a sense of self is developed and contact with working parents is limited? Will they become intellectual clones after years of exposure to the goal of the month programme in centres across the country which receive a standardized set of weekly brochures focusing on such themes such as George Washington, flags and animals?

One enthusiastic Kindercoo assistant described its advantages: "Even if you've never taught before, you can with this system."

But specialists in early childhood development are not convinced that standardized pab dished out by a series of strangers is either adequate or healthy. Most experts agree that early childhood care should be highly personal, from a single individual, if possible; if not, in the

hands of individuals who are warm, experienced and not too overwhelmed by the sheer number of the charges they are required to keep.

In the end, it is the quality of the keepers which counts. Mrs Arlene Gibson, principle of the respected Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore, said that if the quality of teaching is bad, then what is transmitted to the children is bad and all the standardization in the world will not overcome that basic fact. On these grounds, Kindercoo is vulnerable. Fortune magazine recently conducted a series of interviews in centres selected at random and found widely uneven quality.

At a centre in Brookfield, Connecticut, for example, a group of two and three-year-olds was discovered sitting at round tables in desultory fashion doing nothing in particular. The director was off

running errands and only three of the 12 teachers had been there for an entire year. Most of them, as part-timers, had already gone for the day. Finally, the toddlers were marched out to a nearby playground under the care of three relatively untrained teachers who had held their jobs for less than a month.

In the nursery, four infants were in the care of a genial woman who was willing but confused on her first day in the job. "Nobody tells me what I'm supposed to do," she said. "Should I get them ready for their mothers?"

One of the playground teachers meanwhile appeared with a five-year-old who had a stomach-ache and cramp. She asked to leave the child in the nursery where he was deposited in the care of the married newcomer who took no further notice of him. Down a hallway, two

other five-year-olds were being disciplined by being made to sit alone with their backs to the wall for a half an hour or more.

At a centre in nearby Danbury, the picture is brighter but not perfect. The teaching staff is talented and interested but well aware of the imperfections of the programme. In one corner, a group of five-year-olds is flourishing under the care of a dynamic 23-year-old teacher and the playground staff is ever-watchful.

But in the nursery, a conscientious staff expressed strong reservations about the advisability of depositing infants in a centre-like environment, for more than eight hours every day of the week. "I think they should be at least a year old before they come. They all know that Mommy's not here," said one woman, who worried that the babies were not being held often enough.

Her concerns are not unfounded. Jerome Kagan, a child development expert at Harvard University, has stated that three infants per caregiver is reasonable and an adequate ratio to ensure satisfactory social and cognitive development. For two to five-year-olds, he recommends one adult per five or six children.

But the management of Kindercoo adheres strictly to state laws which vary widely, in some cases permitting as many as 12 two-year-olds and 15 three-year-olds per teacher. In Ohio, where Kindercoo operates 40 centres, the ratio of infants to adults is one to eight; in Alabama and Florida, where it has 73 centres, the ratio is one to six and in Connecticut, it is one to four.

One reason the quality of care is so erratic is because of the notoriously low pay. Kindercoo teachers average about \$7,000 a year and directors of the centres earn anywhere from \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year. "You shouldn't employ a person who is depending on this for her sole income," said Mr F. E. Montgomery, vice president of operations for the company.

It is by keeping labour costs low that the company is able to be so profitable. This plus increasing volume from opening a string of new centres each year has added up to substantial profits, which has made the company's stock a favourite on Wall Street, where it trades in a range of \$20 a share, up sharply from \$1.25 a share in 1977 and 48 cents a share in 1972.

In the words of Perry Mendel, a former developer of shopping centres who founded Kindercoo, the company is successful because it saw a need and filled it.

An estimated 47 per cent of women who have married and who have pre-school children now work, compared to only 20 per cent in 1960. For the growing number of divorced parents there may be no other choice but to turn to a Kindercoo.

Inevitably, however, society may have to pay a big cost. "I think these children will be different but I cannot say how. More systematic work needs to be done," said Mr Kagan.

From the former director of Kindercoo, these sentiments were expressed: "I don't think these kids are going to grow up to be Boston stragglers, but one wonders what they might have become had we provided for them a little differently."

COMMENT

Headstone for baby

In 1965, a couple then living in the North of England had a stillborn girl; a year later, in the South, a son died aged seven days. Afterwards, the father seems to have blotted out much of his memory of the events surrounding the two tragedies.

In November 1983, they watched Esther Rantzen's programme about the emotional difficulties of mourning stillbirths and contacted the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society (SANDS) which suggested that they might find it helpful to visit their babies' graves. The society has found that parents who are "stuck" in their grief can in this way be helped to resume the mourning process.

The couple contacted the hospitals where their babies had been born. The hospital administrators in the North were able to trace their little girl's grave, and even offered to arrange for a headstone over the grave which the baby shared with several others. The mother, for the first time, named her baby. She described finding the grave and arranging to mark it as a "sad but joyous experience".

The southern hospital was not as helpful. Eventually a local funeral director was able to tell them where their baby had been buried. They found that 32 other babies shared his grave. The parents were told that they were not allowed to mark their son's grave in any way in case it distressed other parents. The mother was not even allowed to take flowers.

There are a variety of petty rules. In one area in Essex, parents may mark the baby's grave only with a Christian name. A few miles away the parish council will only allow the parents to put the baby's surname on the grave. In Humberston, babies were buried at the foot of another person's grave. Although this practice was discontinued in 1980, parents were not allowed to know where the babies had been buried until December, 1983.

Surely now that the taboos surrounding death are being lifted officials could be less obstructive, relax their attitudes engendered by habit, fear and ignorance and try to help parents come to terms with their loss?

Hazelanne Lewis

The author is chairwoman of SANDS

Afloat in the wading pool of the mind

My daughter, with whom I was staying in New York, recently gave me an unusual gift: a certificate from a centre called Tranquillity Tanks - which entitles me to spend an hour, naked and half-submerged in a covered, darkened box filled with a heavy concentrate of Epsom salts. The saline solution would provide a simulation of weightlessness - like floating in the Dead Sea - and the hermetic sealing of the "coffin" offered almost total sensory deprivation. Not everybody's idea of a present perhaps, but the promotional leaflet promised an out-of-this-world experience. "The tank is a unique tool for the release of tension, enhancing creativity, problem-solving, and self-awareness. . . short-term sensory reduction can result in incredibly profound states of relaxation. Beyond these states of relaxation, inner-space explorers may find a multitude of realities available to them."

These flotation chambers - also known in other American cities as womb rooms, float to

FIRST PERSON Hilary Rubinstein

happier than when I went in - and burst out laughing. In Fifth Avenue, I am made aware of how acute all my senses have become. The colours are intense. I smell everything - as women pass I smell each of them from yards away . . . so attractive! I feast my eyes on them, what an endless parade of beauty!

Before I was allowed to sample this nirvana, I had first to read through a checklist and confirm that I was not on drugs, had no known mental illness, was not suffering from any skin disease, and to sign a disclaimer that I was entering the tank of my own free will and would not hold Tranquillity responsible for any unforeseen consequences. I could, if I wished, practice meditation or auto-hypnosis. I was then instructed to enter the inner sanctum, shut the door, undress, take a shower, shampoo my hair, seal my ears with plugs and vaseline, and step

into the chamber. I should close the lid on myself when I was ready for my hour to begin.

Alas, for me, Tranquillity might have been spelt tanknullity. Perhaps I did not approach the experience with sufficient seriousness, though I certainly tried to keep an open mind. But as a moderate-insomniac, I am accustomed to spending part of most nights in a state of unwilling wakefulness. The air inside soon became stale, the temperature was a little too warm for comfort.

Many tankers, I was told, lost all sense of time, and were amazed to discover how quickly their hour had passed. I was denied this surprise, and had throughout a strong sense of passing time. I felt that I owed it to my daughter not to chicken out prematurely, but I became increasingly impatient as the minutes passed. Sadly, it had not been transformed while I had been out for the count; the women in Fifth Avenue looked no more beautiful and smelt no better than they had earlier in the day.

Suppose flotation really caught on? The enthusiast from

Village Voice was fully alive to the dangers. "People are finding that they can leave behind not just neighbours and families and living-rooms, but their own bodies. They don't watch the box, they climb inside it, and the movies they make in the dark are all their own. . . And soon perhaps each family member will have his own or her own tank, and in the evenings the towns and cities will be strangely dark and quiet, and in the darkened houses and apartments, the only sound will be the muffled gentle splashing, the slow peaceful breathing of the profoundly relaxed, the tranquil masses."

Many years ago, Selfridges put out an advertisement in December with suggestions for Christmas gifts, ending up as a rather desperate note: "For those who have everything. . . books." Tranquillity has gone one better: for those who have everything, who are gorged with more and more titillating experiences, an hour in the tank offers - for a mere \$20 - the taste of absolutely nothing.

TALKBACK

Let pupils decide

From Peter Rawling, senior tutor, The Windsor Boys' School, Windsor, Berks. In reply to Helen Mason "Should teachers be masters of morality?" (Monday Page, March 12) it needs to be pointed out that it is an implied part of a school's responsibility to help with the development of moral values. The suggestion that we try to indoctrinate moral values, however, needs rebutting.

While in schools we have every right to have rules for our own environment, which include no-smoking rules, the tackling of moral issues in schools is to enable pupils to understand what is involved so that they can make up their own minds at the due time.

The point, therefore, is not whether the English teacher is living with her boyfriend, but whether the implications of such a relationship are understood so that people can decide their own view for themselves.

With the number of stable and educationally-motivated homes in decline, schools get more requests to try to take charge because parental control has been lost. Teachers today care greatly and readily accept a role beyond that of mere instructors - what we do ask for (and what should be the real talking point) is for the facilities (including time, recognition and support) to do the task properly - for the sake of pupils, who are often otherwise neglected.

Roast duck to remember

In the theatre of the kitchen a ballotine of duck is especially good value. There is nothing like a high wall oven with a good light inside and a glass door for drawing visitors into the cook's domain.

Everyone knows that a duck will feed two well, and four if they are not too hungry. But the table is set for six, perhaps eight, and there is only one duck in the oven. By now they have guessed, and asked, and there are smiles of relief all round. It has been boned, and stuffed. It is a ballotine and more than enough for six.

Ballotine of duck
Serves six to eight

1 duck weighing about 2.5 kg (5½ lbs)

For the stuffing:

3 skinless chicken breasts

8 tablespoons port

1 Seville orange, or a lemon

55 g (2 oz) butter

2 shallots, finely chopped

1 duck liver

680 g (1½ lbs) pork, lean and fat

110 g (4 oz) fresh white breadcrumbs

THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

1 egg

6 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

4 small sage leaves, finely chopped

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the gravy:

150 ml (⅓ pint) good duck or chicken stock

Port, orange or lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste

Removing the bones from a raw bird without slitting its skin is not especially difficult. It requires only patience and a small, sharp, pointed knife.

First cut off the wing tips and the next section of wing bone, leaving only the wing bone nearest to the body.

Cut out the wishbone, using the knife to separate the arch of bone from the meat, and pulling steadily to release the ends. Sever the ball-joints at the junction of the wings and carcass, and scrape and cut the flesh away from the collar bones. Remove these, breaking them at the cartilaginous junction with the breast bone.

Scrape and cut the flesh from the bones of the main cavity, working them apart down to the ball joint with the legs. Take special care where skin and bone meet without fleshy padding along the spine and at the apex of the breast bone. Detach a little cartilage with the skin rather than risk puncturing it.

Break the joints of the legs with the torso and work free the bones down to the tail. Cut the skeleton free, leaving a few tail vertebrae in place.

The bones that would be duck's shins, if it had them, should be left in place. The thighs can be boned or left as they are.

Set the boned duck aside while preparing the stuffings. Cut the chicken breasts into long slivers about 1cm/½ inch wide. Put them in a dish with the port and juice of the orange or lemon. Leave the slivers to marinate.

Melt half the butter in a small pan and add the chopped shallots. Cook them on a medium heat until they are tender without allowing them to brown.

Transfer the onions to a large bowl and add the remaining butter to the pan. When it is really hot, add the duck liver and cook it lightly to stiffen it so that it may be chopped. Chop it roughly and add it to the bowl.

Chop the pork very coarsely (1 cm/½ inch cubes are a good target), and mince the

remainder once, not too finely. Processor users should be especially careful not to process the meat too finely or it will cook to a too-firm lump.

Put the chopped and minced pork into the bowl and add the breadcrumbs, grated orange or lemon zest, parsley, sage, egg, and a generous seasoning of salt and freshly ground black pepper. Mix the stuffing thoroughly and fry a teaspoonful of the mixture to check the seasoning.

Lay the duck breast down on a board and spoon half the stuffing into it. Form it into a thick, duck-shaped layer on the board. Drain the slivers of chicken breast and lay them lengthwise over the first layer of stuffing, so that each slice will be studded with nuggets of lean meat. Use the remaining stuffing to make another layer over the chicken pieces. Sew up the tail and neck vents with a trussing needle and thread or string, and pin the wings and legs close to the body with skewers or trussing. Fat the duck into as birdlike a shape as possible.

Roast it on a rack in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about two hours, basting it once or twice with the port and juice marinade.

I do not prick the duck before roasting it. The fat is needed to make the stuffing moist and succulent, and most of it runs out anyway during cooking.

Rest the duck for 10 minutes before carving it. Make a thin gravy with the skimmed pan juices if they are not too darkly caramelized, adding the stock and port, juice and seasonings to taste.

To serve the duck, begin carving it from the neck end. Cut off the wings neatly and cut across the body in thick, confident slices.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Hart heads for London

Gary Hart is coming to London next month. The US Embassy is pre-arranging but Hart is believed to have arranged meetings with both Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock. His visit, thought to be over the weekend of April 14 and 15, was confirmed to me yesterday by Chris Patten. Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, an old friend and tennis partner of Hart, the Democratic presidential front-runner.

The "wettest" of the Tory wets discussed the trip with Hart's wife, Lee, and his principal aide when Patten was in the United States on business last week. "Gary asked me to campaign in Illinois, but I had to explain that as a Cabinet minister I cannot, alas, wear a campaign button."

Patten was unable to confirm Hart's meetings with Kinnock and Thatcher. He did, however, name Hart's other Westminster friends who, I suspect, are secretly rooting for the Democrat: David Steel, the Liberal leader, Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, and Dennis Davies, shadow spokesman for Defence and Disarmament. At the invitation of Hart they all joined Patten in the US for a conference last year to discuss the "problems of the future".

London vote

Meanwhile the most surprising figure to emerge from the closet in support of Hart is Kingman Brewster, the former American ambassador in London under the Carter-Mondale administration.

"I was very appreciative of President Carter's decision to appoint me as ambassador, but I am neither a Carter nor a Mondale man," said Brewster, now a City lawyer who is "starting" at a cocktail shindig in Savoy Cottage on April 5 to boost Hart's campaign coffers, into which, he tells me, he has already slipped \$4,000.

BARRY FANTONI



Familiar?

First St John's College, Cambridge, admits girls. Now I hear students are to be allowed to share. Undergraduate Robin Tam tells me one couple ("not romantically connected") have already apportioned domestic chores before they move in together this coming academic year. Fearing a second Dartington, I rang the college Master, Professor Francis Hinsley. "No one will be living in sin next year," he barked, demanding the story be dropped forthwith. Talks were still going on and "the less excitability there is during discussions the better," said the excited professor. He got even more excited when I asked his Christian name. "My initials are FH - there is too much familiarity about these days." Well he should know.

Passed

The ignominy of being defeated by Nicholas Parsons at the Cambridge Union's presidential debate the other night on the motion "This house believes debating is a waste of time" must have been too much for former taxi driver turned Mastermind, Fred Housego.

The poor fellow, who boasts one O-level, fell into the company of the St John's College Rugby Club and, in his wisdom, declared that if the lads raised £100, he would swim naked across the River Cam. A whip-round ensued, and £60 later, Housego gladly stripped off, plunged into the icy water and, flanked by two naked rugby players, swam across the Cam. The frolic was brought to a traditional halt by the local constabulary, who fished one of the players from the river. Housego scrambled to the bank and eluded arrest. Yesterday the suitably contrite fellow, who donated his winnings to the college "rag" funds, swore he would never attempt such a joke again. Still, it impressed the rugby club - they've made him an honorary member.

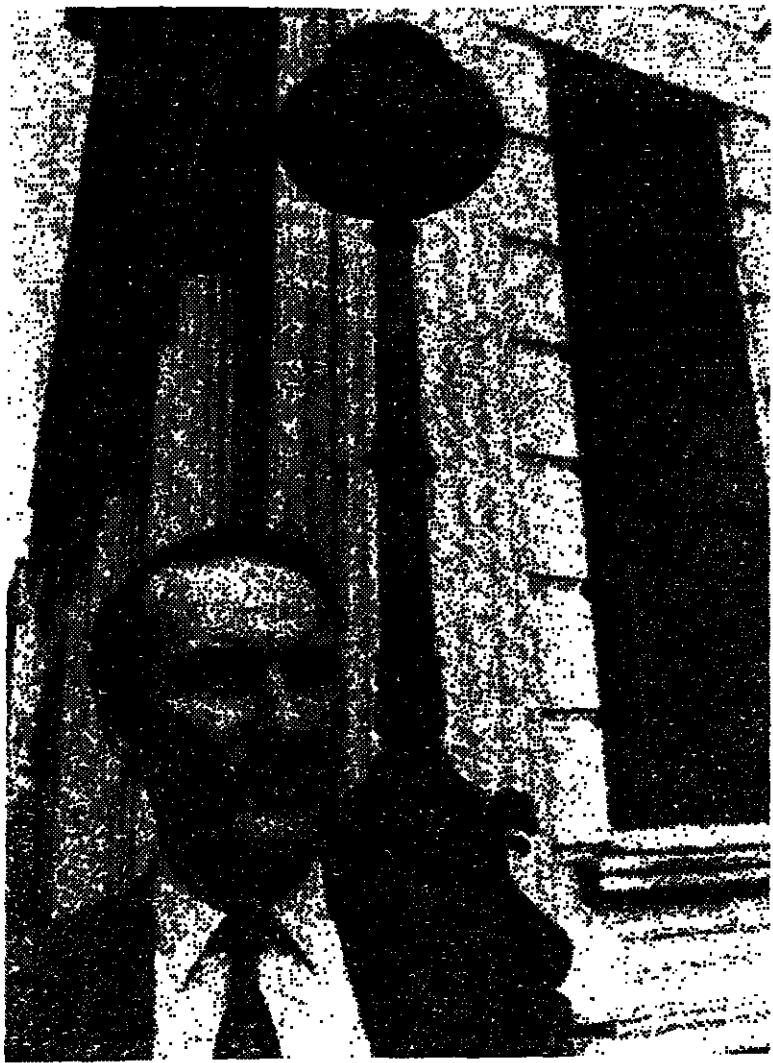
Bedford bait

Bedford College in Regent's Park, the first women's university college in Britain, is about to be sold for a reputed £8m to a private North American university. The buyers, who are expected to complete the deal in a few weeks, have beaten off competition from the Saudi Arabian government who wanted to convert it into an Islamic museum, and from the transcendental leader, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. The college, whose students will now attend Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey, is to be used by the North American as a centre for its European study tour, in an effort to bait more students. Yesterday's disclosure will come as a particular blow to Sir Arthur Drew, chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission and deputy chairman of the Islamic project, who had planned a "sort of Hayward Gallery of Islamic culture".

PHS

Graham Serjeant on Mrs Thatcher's man at the Institute of Directors

A radical to rally the troops



Sir John Hoskyns: a Young Turk's military approach

It is a tribute to Mr Walter Goldsmith's five-year term as director-general of the Institute of Directors that the announcement of his successor, Sir John Hoskyns, will be seen as a much more significant event than the arrival of Mr Goldsmith, the then-unknown Black & Decker manager, just a few weeks after Mrs Thatcher's 1979 election victory.

When Sir John, aged 56, former head of Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit, moves into the grand Pall Mall headquarters of the Institute in July, he will usher in the new-style Institute's second stage as surely as the 1983 election ushered in Mrs Thatcher's second term.

Sir John sees Mrs Thatcher's task as having two parts: the first was devoted to destroying inflation and the attitudes that went with it. Her Government succeeded where Mr Heath's failed because it "saw that putting the fire out and making the easier short-term moves to cut controls and reform trade unions was a task for a full parliament".

The radical restructuring of the economy, which Mr Heath attempted straightaway, he sees as the task for the second term, keeping the Institute fully behind the "radicals" against the "consolidators" in the Government. His aim is to produce an economic structure that can achieve rapid growth without government injections.

The Directors' progress, though lacking the Government's internal doubts and conflicts, has some parallels. If the Government's first task was to tackle inflation and establish credibility in its determination to do so, then Mr Goldsmith's was to establish credibility *in court*, after an internal power struggle had charted a new course for what had previously been a cross between a club and a professional trade association.

He did so by adopting the highest possible profile, hot-gossiping a genuinely felt private enterprise free market philosophy to anyone who would listen on any available occasion.

In doing so, he articulated to the like-minded Prime Minister that a large body of businessmen, particularly the venturers and individual proprietors who formed much of the Institute's membership, were fully behind her and prepared to take the knocks.

This was in stark contrast to the Confederation of British Industry, whose ideological zeal had been lost as it widened its industrial base to become management's corporatist counterweight to the TUC. The CBI lost faith in 1981 and looked down on Mr Goldsmith's men as "laundromat owners".

This earned the Institute an influential voice at court, helping to stiffen the Treasury in 1981-82 and, as Mr Goldsmith built up a small but sharp research and policy study team, put it firmly on the list of pressure groups to be consulted on legislation.

The like-minded Hoskyns, installed as the businessman at Number 10 between 1979 and 1982, became a main conduit between the Institute and the Prime Minister. He was also, with Mr Goldsmith, a vital member of the shadowy "Argonauts" club, initially formed by Sir Alfred Sherman of the Centre of Policy Studies at the time of the steel strike, to let the Prime Minister know how little effect it was having on smaller businessmen at a time when many of the CBI's members were suffering only too visibly.

Hoskyns left Whitehall more than ever convinced of the need for

radical change and made both friends and enemies by breaking the rules of the establishment club, publicly expressing his disillusion with the quality of the Whitehall machine and some of its incumbents, most notably in a speech that brought the house down at the Institute's 1983 convention.

At the same time, and particularly since the last election, the Institute and Mrs Thatcher's more right-wing supporters have become critics of what they see as backsliding and have probably lost some influence.

Sir John sees Mr Nigel Lawson's first Budget as both an encouragement and a warning. It presages the huge programme of tax reform which the Directors have long championed and which he pressed in government as a priority for its second term.

But "in the long term it worries me that the Chancellor only said that he would hold public spending. Can the economy grow at the right rate regardless of the percentage of output taken by public spending, which is much higher than in our main competitors, the United States and the Far East? If it does not matter, why did we bother?"

He is also disappointed that the Budget assumed inflation continuing at about 4 per cent. The idea that this is acceptable betrays "intellectual confusion. Price stability is the only target worth going for." Only if prices are stable, he believes, can trade unionists accept that living standards will not decline in the absence of an annual wage rise and only then can inflationary pressures be beaten.

If the nation's company directors are to help win the battle for the radicals, they too must adopt a different approach from Mr Goldsmith's combination of public

profile for its own sake, but ask whether the strategy calls for overt or covert persuasion.

The Institute's members, though termed "business leaders", are in practice led from the top in a way that would not go down well at the CBI. Even so, Sir John's radical thinking about institutions probably goes beyond the free enterprise consensus of the membership.

He accepts that his own passion for reform of the Whitehall machine, though welcome at the bureaucratic-bashing level that he would find distasteful, is unlikely to figure among the Institute's top priorities. Still less does he expect to pursue his desire for electoral reform, which he saw as a method of creating consensus to allow gradual and therefore less painful long-term reform. In the absence of a consensus for phased change, he accepts that radicalism must, to some extent, sacrifice the present generation for the sake of the future. Such honesty will not endear him to the dole queues.

The Institute's main themes, however, have found an echo in Sir John's writing since he left Downing Street: the reform and reduction of taxation to remove distortions and improve incentives; long-term cuts in public spending; the drive to zero inflation; the promotion of new enterprise and the withdrawal of the state from the economy (though, perhaps surprisingly, he sees privatisation as marginal).

Under Hoskyns, the Institute will continue to deride the corporatist approach exemplified by the National Economic Development Council. More importantly, it will certainly pursue the new priority given to trade union reform in the Goldsmith years, calling, perhaps, for an end to trade union immunities, severe curtailment of employment protection law and GCHQ-style buyouts of the right to strike in public services.

To this list, Sir John will probably add greater emphasis and a tougher stance on the welfare state, though he is properly not anticipating events.

In his own mind, such issues coalesce into grand interconnected strategies to revolutionize the supply side of the economy. The great debate will be about coordinating problem-solving in ways Whitehall is not organized to do.

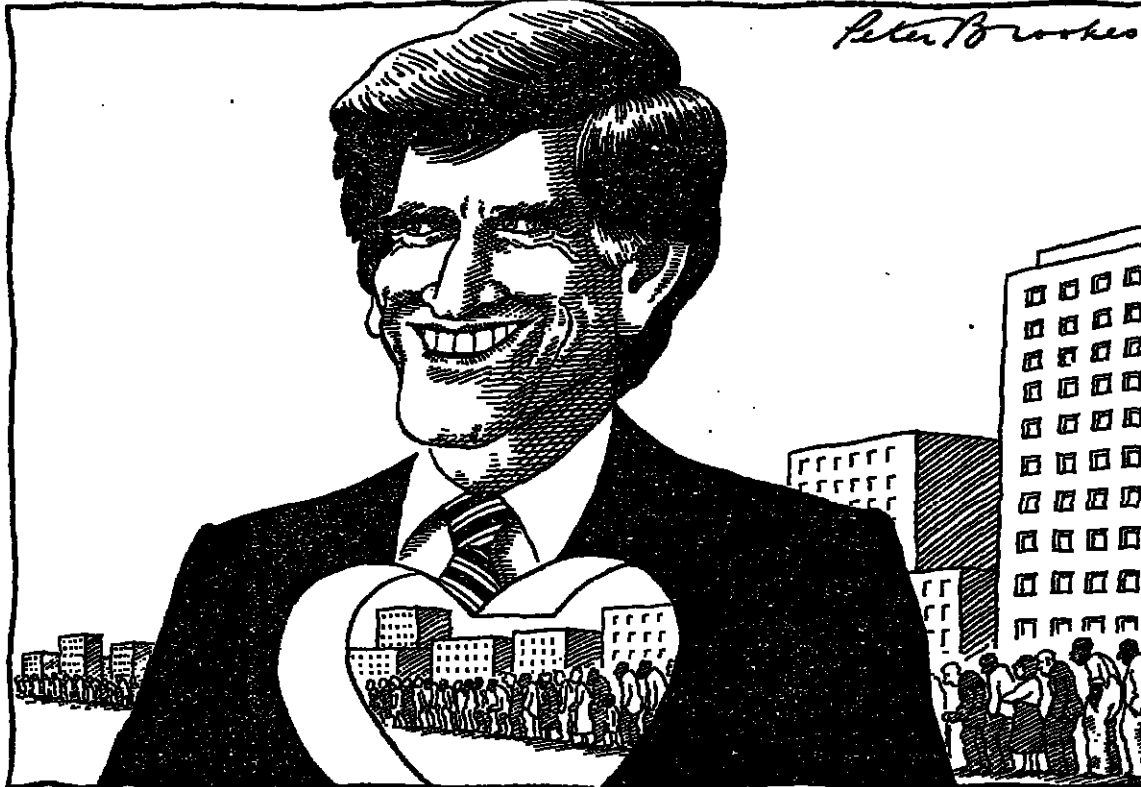
"We need to make the labour market work. But there is no minister for the Labour market who can look at taxation, social security benefits, rent controls, regional aid, wages councils and trade union legislation together." Business people are better at looking at things in the round rather than snipping bits off at the edges.

The Institute under Walter Goldsmith has already made a widely-respected contribution of this kind in its policies towards the EEC, which embraced detailed calls for greater market integration on one side with rejection of European corporatism on the other.

His successor will probably concentrate more on this sort of presentation than on instant responses to each event. "This allows you to say things are complex. I do not believe that public oversimplification of very complex issues is helpful." Whether this will rally his troops with the enthusiasm they showed for his Whitehall speech remains to be seen. No one can doubt the ambition of Sir John Hoskyns' vision.

"What we need is a UK economic miracle to turn this into a very different kind of country."

Peter Brooks



old Colorado senator had run consistently well with young, well-educated, better-off voters.

In Florida, for example, Hart won the support of 48 per cent of voters aged 25 to 29 years old, 45 per cent of college graduates and 51 of those earning more than \$50,000 a year.

On the other hand Mr Walter Mondale, his chief rival for the Democratic nomination who represents the old-style party leadership, has got most of his support from the old and the poor.

The emergence of the "Yuppie" generation lies at the root of the bitter feud now taking place between Mr Mondale and Senator Hart as the two confront each other for a series of big state primaries which began yesterday in Illinois.

Mr Mondale has tried to portray his younger rival as being too inexperienced and too "flaky" for the nomination. "How can you rely on someone who lies about his age?" remarked a Mondale aide, referring to Hart's unexplained decision to subtract a year from his age in his official biography.

Hart has shown himself to be vulnerable to such attacks. Twice during the past week he has run into difficulties over his own campaign commercials attacking Mr Mondale.

His tendency to pose as a Kennedy of the 1980s has brought him some ridicule.

Hart has focused his attacks on Mondale's ties with trade unions and party bosses, his role in the Carter administration and his inability to stir the American people.

"Mondale's problem is that he is more popular with Democratic bosses than he is with Democratic voters," Hart said recently. The Hart-Mondale battle is symbolic of a more fundamental struggle now taking place for the soul of the Democratic Party between its old and young guards, between those who still cling to the liberal values which have been the bedrock of the party since FDR's days, and a new breed of younger Democrats for whom the "New Deal" is ancient history. Senator Hart represents that new generation; the "Yuppies" are his high-tech legionnaires.

The divide is not just generational, it is also regional (the "old" first-best states of the North against the "new" sunbelt states of the South and West) and philosophical. The new generation believes in free-market capitalism, and does not share its elders' faith in the dominant role of government in regulating the economy. Traditional

Nicholas Ashford

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

As ye sow not, yet shall ye reap

Several years ago the MP for the next-door constituency and I were summoned to the Ministry of Defence. The RAF, we were told by a junior minister, was about to hold low-flying exercises across our two constituencies. "We recognize," he told us, "that this is likely to cause a lot of livestock to stampede just when they are most at risk, and therefore that you are going to have an awful lot of complaints from your farming constituents. Unfortunately the whole purpose of the exercise means that it has got to be carried out when the trees are all in leaf. But I have instructed our local officials to settle all claims for compensation speedily and considerably." "Can we," asked my neighbour - himself a farmer by profession - "make that assurance concrete?" "By all means," replied the minister. As we left the MOD I said to my colleague "this is going to cost a packet."

And so it proved. Local farmers rose magnificently to the challenge. Claims for compensation flooded in. A particular favourite was "loss of livestock gain" - as elegantly unprovable as it was irrefutable. Many farms enjoyed their best cash crop for years.

I recalled that joyous incident again three years ago when I studied the small print of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. This struck me at the time as a classic instance of legislation for legislation's sake: the sort of well-intentioned law-making dreamed up by officials and calculated to set farmer against rambler and give little lasting satisfaction to anyone apart from the lawyers, who could expect to turn an honest quid or two. But the arrangements for "management agreements" - by which farmers and landowners who happened to be blessed with sites of special interest to the conservancy lobby would be offered open-ended compensation for not putting them under the plough - like Hilare Belloc's Maillia, "made one gasp and stretch one's eyes".

Now the chickens, or perhaps one should say the lesser spotted flycatchers, are flocking home to roost. Mr Tony Long of the Council for the Protection of Rural England has evidence of farmers and landowners "taking professional advice and massing up to take advantage of these compensation payments". Well in God's name what else could the Government have expected?

It is not as if they were not warned. In their lordship's House, where they know a thing or two

about land use and conservation, Lord Onslow pointed out when the Act was going through that Lord Peel, who happens to own a fair slice of the Yorkshire Dales national park, had only to come up with a scheme to lime, slag and reseed his acres - a scheme which would certainly be turned down under the Act - and he could pick up anything from £75,000 to £300,000 a year in compensation for not doing something which would lay waste his grouse moors, and which he would therefore presumably never have dreamed of doing if left to his own devices.

Indeed Lord Onslow pointed out that government had already learned the folly of this sort of nonsense once before. Brooks's Club, it seems, collected £90,000 under the terms of the Artle Government's town planning legislation for not pulling down its premises, and put it into wine. So the Churchill Government put a stop to that and White's Club, more dozy than its neighbour, missed the boat.

Lord Peel seems to have been remarkably abstemious - so far. But Lord Thurso has collected £280,000 for not planting trees at the top end of a Highland glen, and Lord Cranborne £20,400 a year for 65 years for not demolishing a splendid Dorset pheasant cover. And now a quartet of Norfolk farmers are out to break the bank with a claim for £100,000 a year for 20 years for not running their tractors over a local bog. The Norfolk Broads Authority can't meet it, and have threatened to let the farmers do their worst. So the hapless Mr William Waldegrave at the Department of the Environment, into whose lap this can of worms has fallen, has promised to have a word with the Min of Ag to see if "other ways" can be found to "support" traditional farming methods and leave the bogs alone. Which presumably means trying to persuade Mr Michael Jopling to come to the rescue of Environment and hump it on his departmental budget. If Mr Jopling has any sense he will tell Environment that they made the bed and had better lie in it.

How the Treasury allowed this particular piece of lunacy to find its way on to the Statute Book passes understanding. Having done so the best that they can do is now to draw the pursestrings tight. For otherwise, they soon will not be a haunt of natterjack toad or peg-legged bumble-bee safe from the threat of having to make its contribution to the Common Market's bulging granaries.

Peter Kellner

Elections: Money can't buy sense

One of the oddest moments of last year's general election was when Tony Benn came to the aid of the Prime Minister. A man calling himself "Mr" Margaret Thatcher wanted to stand in Finchley. He was having difficulty getting his nomination accepted and wrote to Mr Benn for support. Mr Benn replied with a stern missive about how men and women had fought and died for the right to vote: "do not mock it by farce."

Then there was the equally unedifying spectacle of "Roy Harold Jenkins" opposing the SDP leader in the Glasgow, Hillhead by-election two years ago. On election day SDP activists marched outside polling stations wearing sandwich boards that said "The real Roy Jenkins is number 5".

The level of the deposit needed to stand in a parliamentary election has remained at £150 since 1918, despite a twelve-fold increase in prices generally. As the real cost of contesting elections has fallen, so the number of fringe candidates has risen.

Chesterfield set a new record last month, with 17 candidates; but even general elections attract oddballs. Last June candidates stood for Freddie's Alternative Medicine Party, Fancy Dress Party, Justice for Divorced Fathers, Loony Monster Party, Loony Society, Party of Associates with Licences, Stockport Back in Lancashire Party, Tactically Vote Bennite to Annihilate Bennites, and Livingstonites.

What to do about them? Within the next two or three weeks MPs will debate the Government's proposals for amending the Representation of the People Acts. David Mellor, a Home Office minister, will propose increasing the deposit to £1,000, while lowering the number of votes needed for candidates to recover their deposit from 12½ to 5 per cent.

There is no doubt Mr Mellor can obtain a majority in the Commons for his proposal. However, he very properly wants all-party support.

The other day, at a private conference at Nuffield College, Oxford, of politicians, administrators, academics and journalists, a surprising degree of unity displayed by Labour, Liberal and SDP politicians. They argued that the deposit should be abolished: a candidate should secure a substantial number of signatures from local electors instead.

Nobody seems to dispute the principle that money is the wrong sort of barrier to taking part in the democratic process. It is unfair to serious candidates of limited means, and unlikely to deter wealthy self-publicists. ("Lord" Sutch may well approve of the proposed £1,000 limit: better to pay more to be one of four by-election candidates than to pay less and be one of 17.) The reason the Government has plumped for money rather than

signatures is purely practical: signatures, it says, will not work.

Maybe so; but the evidence it has offered so far is weak, even by the Home Office's normally desultory standards. When the Government published its White Paper in January it offered three arguments against signatures. None of them was new.

Signatures, the White Paper says "would greatly increase the work of the acting returning officer". That "greatly" is a bit rich. According to one seasoned participant in the Nuffield seminar, it takes one minute on average to check each signature. A requirement to have 100 signatures would add less than one staff day to the administration of an election, assuming there were four candidates. Even 500 signatures would add only £200 to administrative costs per constituency.

Next we are told that signatures "would increase the risk of a nomination being invalid on purely technical grounds" - for example, if one or two signatories write down the wrong electoral roll number. As the Liberals have pointed out, this is easy to get round: make sure there is space on each nomination paper for 10 to 20 extra signatures, so there will still be enough valid signatures, even if a few have to be disqualified.

Finally, the Government argues that "a candidate's ability to produce signatures is no test of the number of votes he or she will receive". This is the worst argument of all. The point of setting any hurdles is not - or should not be - to block serious minority candidates, but to block frivolous ones.

Serious candidates come in various guises: some benign, like the Ecology Party, and some repulsive, like the National Front. Mr Mellor had the distasteful experience of fighting against an NF man in Farnley last June. He does not wish to repeat it, and few can blame him.

But all candidates who can demonstrate their seriousness by obtaining (say) 500 signatures, complete with correct electoral roll numbers (a far harder task than simply standing in a high street waving a petition in front of people), should have the right to stand for Parliament, however nasty their politics. Indeed, the nastier their views, the more important it is for them to be condemned by their unpopularity than by their poverty.

I should be very surprised if "Lord" Sutch or successors to the phoney Roy Jenkins could obtain 500 signatures. They may well be able to raise £1,000. Unless the Government changes its mind, we shall have a system that permits frivolous candidates with money, but bars serious candidates without. As a constitutional reform, it would be neither dignified nor efficient. The author is political editor of the New Statesman.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

TRADE UNIONS ON TRIAL

With his accustomed lack of ambiguity, Lord Denning yesterday summed up the changed position of trade unions in our time. In the nineteenth century they were persecuted and oppressed; in the twentieth they have "exploited their immunities beyond measure". In consequence of this abuse, they have had their immunities redefined and constrained by statute, one consequence of which was to make peaceful picketing illegal at premises other than the picket's own place of work. Lord Denning then posed the questions whether the unions will obey the law, resist it by force or a general strike, or by campaigning to have it changed by Parliament.

In fact, the new law against secondary picketing is being broken by some of the miners now, quite apart from the clear threat of criminal violence that is only restrained by a massive police presence at the beleaguered coalfields. Worse still, there is too much evidence that confidence in the law and instinctive respect for it is surface deep more generally.

The widespread tendency of lookers-on to sigh with relief at the National Coal Board's decision not to proceed with their contempt of court proceedings against the Yorkshire NUM for organizing illegal picketing is itself symptomatic of a hesitation to put the law to the test. Of course, the NCB's decision is understandable in tactical terms; it does not want to assist the miners to solidarity behind the militants who are resented by so many of them. Yet the general relief also reflects a fear that the law might prove unenforceable

under test, though the essence of the law is that it should be enforceable.

No less significant is the easy switch of criticism away from those miners who are clearly breaking the law by secondary picketing, and on to the police for massing in large enough numbers to prevent violence in the areas under siege, and for intervening to warn miners from Kent, on the way to the north, to turn back. It is not simply a matter of Mr Arthur Scargill's irresponsible rhetoric, as when he chose to liken the massive police presence in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire as both unwarranted and "almost tantamount to a para-military state". That kind of talk simply discredits the talker, and as each day passes Mr Scargill, by his incoherent petulance, and his accusations of police rather than picket violence, proves himself to be the miners' worst enemy.

But more worrying than Mr Scargill's palpable excesses is the silence of too many trade union leaders who ought to be forthright in asserting that the civil law as it applies to secondary picketing, and the common law as it applies to any kind of intimidation by force, ought to be upheld. In speaking yesterday on his theme "Trade Unions on Trial", Lord Denning spoke of the recent NGA threat to call a one-day strike against the national newspapers in the case of the *Stockport Messenger*, and of Mr Len Murray's statement that the TUC could only support action that was lawful.

"The whole country was grateful to Mr Murray and the moderate members of the TUC

general council," said Lord Denning, for it seemed to herald a new attitude towards the law. But the unlawful secondary action over the Cheltenham dispute, and what is happening at some of the mines has proved a disappointment, and the trade unions now seem to be saying that they reserve the right to choose whether to obey the orders of the courts of law from which they are no longer immune.

Lord Denning argued that now the union immunities have been taken away, they should be put on probation and be free to do the useful things they can do for their members, provided they obey the law of the land. "If they should flout the law", he concluded, "they will find that their end will be at hand." This ominous conclusion, apparently, he derives from his belief that no union could survive for long with its assets seized, sequestered and depleted. Yet behind these penalties there is, of course, an even stronger sanction on which all enforceable law ultimately rests: public opinion.

It becomes steadily clearer how inadequately, when not perversely, trade union leadership reflects their members; and what is happening at the mines where those who wish to work are under siege from their fellows is only one demonstration of that. There is a stark disparity of attitudes between rank-and-file trade unionists and their leaders, wielding the weapon of the closed shop. In the end it will have to be public opinion, and the union rank and file, which will pronounce the verdict on those who lead them so badly.

HELPING THE OLD AND COLD

The passing months of winter are often the cruellest. Mortality rates for the old - and the very young - are well above other seasons; in the quarter ending in March, death rates among old men can be up to 85 per cent above those of summer. Deaths specifically attributable to hypothermia are, mercifully, few, but cold and the under-consumption of fuel by those on the margins of poverty undoubtedly affect health and resistance to disease.

For the sake of the poorest, any measure - willed or inadvertent - that squeezes the fuel budgets of those on the lowest incomes should be closely monitored. Inescapably, energy pricing policies - whatever their wider fiscal or commercial basis - have consequences for the well-being of society. Cabinets which make significant changes in the cost of domestic fuel have some obligation to ensure the clumbering machine of social security catches up.

The Treasury's larger than usual manipulation of the electricity price regime for 1984-85 has some characteristics of a fiscal impost. When in the House of Commons today fuel and poverty are debated there will doubtless be those among the Government's detractors who will try to dress Mr Lawson in vulpine garb or accuse him of grinding the faces of the poor. This is nonsense - provided Mr Lawson does accept that the social security indices for 1984-

85 about to be agreed should reflect changes in the fuel price regime and that some provision is made, in the reserves, for emergency payments like those which had to be paid during the severe winter of 1981-82. Public policy fails if those depending on the state for their income (and often their housing, too) become unable to buy adequate fuel from the state monopoly suppliers. The poor should not of course be exempt from price signals reflecting the secular shift in the cost of fuels; but nor should they be specially penalized.

Lower income households spend a higher proportion of income on heating and light. Poor families, meaning often the old and the sick, need extra heating; their housing, in both public and private sectors, tends to be more expensive to heat; and so on. Since the 1970s the main plank of social policy has been a set of additional payments for heating, often made directly by the Department of Health and Social Security to the gas and electricity authority with the necessary but unfortunate result of diminishing budgetary autonomy. It has been a sad fact of life that nothing more effectively aids fuel economy and responsible budgeting by the poor than the restoration of old-fashioned slot meters. Gas and electricity authorities have been all too slow to recognize their role - not as welfare agencies -

but as public utilities with a social responsibility. In disconnection they wield a fearful weapon to secure repayment of debt.

Today's debate will achieve some purpose if gas and electricity authorities are reminded that they have an obligation towards better liaison with the DHSS and local social services departments. The case for making into law the existing voluntary code of practice governing fuel debts and disconnections will doubtless be made once again, but Department of Energy ministers will rightly reply that this is essentially an area where cases differ and the utmost flexibility must be allowed. Those same ministers should be allowed no complacency, however. The price mechanism is a blunt instrument for securing energy conservation and, for poor fuel users, often inequitable in its incidence. There is scope for an expansion of the effort to make fuel use more efficient; it is not enough simply to offer elderly households money to lag boilers. Often they might be more fuel efficient and their fuel budgets less strained if they had a new heating system altogether. The Department of Energy's recently launched conservation campaign is directed at the energy haves. Its extension, albeit at some short run cost, to the poor might both save money eventually and maintain adequate standards of winter warmth.

NEW LAWS FOR LOMBARD STREET

Decisions are about to be made by the Government which will affect the fate of every person's savings in this country for a generation to come. The changes are designed to inspire freedom, innovation and a fairer deal for all, with the creation of a share-owning democracy as a political bonus for the Conservatives to stand alongside the existing phalanx of home owners. But it is becoming plain that this desirable goal is not going to be achieved without a considerable amount of pain along the way.

The present and pending changes stem from the agreement last summer between Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, and Mr Cecil Parkinson, then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, whereby the Government exempted the Stock Exchange from the provisions of the Restrictive Practices laws. In return, the members of the Stock Exchange agreed to change their rules, principally to make it easier to admit outsiders and to abandon the system of fixed rates of commissions on securities transactions.

That in turn has set off a series of consequential changes popularly characterized as breaking down the walls between different parts of the City. If anyone with the money and the right credentials can buy into a stockbroker, then the inviolability of every other protected species can be challenged. The prevailing question has become not "Why?" but "Why not?" Why should stockbrokers and stockjobbers be kept

rigidly apart? Why not let department stores or bookmakers offer the public a stock market service? And, as commissions are no longer to be fixed after the end of next year, why not make share trading more attractive to the public by using price cuts to stimulate demand in true supermarket style? In this climate it is difficult to justify the exclusion of important foreign securities houses such as Merrill Lynch of the US or Nomura of Japan.

The quick answer to the question "Why not?" is that by keeping financial services companies rigidly segregated and denying easy entry into the various markets, it has been much simpler to protect investors. Banks, insurance companies, securities dealers and Lloyd's insurance market are all covered by laws special to each of them. Such walls should be dismantled with great care. Without them, the investor is more likely to see his savings vanish through some deft sleight of hand.

However Mr Alex Fletcher, the minister responsible for guiding through the eventual new legislation on this wide-ranging and complex subject, is confident that we can have the best of both worlds. "Regulation should be made to meet the needs of the market, rather than the market being forced to meet the needs of regulation," he says. While much work remains to be done, the skeleton of a supervisory system is beginning to emerge. Predictably, this govern-

ment is setting its face against a Securities and Exchange Commission on American lines. It would be another bureaucratic tier. Instead, the Department of Trade and Industry is to act as a licensing authority for the bodies in charge of each financial service. As the laws are introduced, the elusive but considerable authority of the Governor of the Bank of England is expected to diminish.

Each body, such as the Stock Exchange, would have to submit its constitution and ruling council for approval by the DTI. What is not clear is what sanctions the DTI could apply, short of total abolition. The individual operators would also be subject to the provisions of the Insolvency Bill due to come before Parliament in the next session. This, among other things, will probably invoke the concept of "wrongful trading". Transgressors would be barred from holding further directorships.

It is by no means certain that this will be anything like enough. As the competition for the saver's custom intensifies, so will there be an increased temptation to take short cuts. More than mere fools may be parted from their money. The Government may yet find that it is forced to replace the City's invisible walls on which the Governor of the Bank of England currently stands guard, with a more tangible supervisory system than the new legal structure will provide.

Cost of policing the pit dispute

From Mr J. F. Chatfield

Sir, In your report (March 19) of the mobilization of police manpower from county police forces in England and Wales to assist the police forces in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere in the miners' dispute, your Social Policy Correspondent, David Walker, states: "The cost will be heavily on the counties requesting assistance. But it will come from the Home Office; the rest will have to be found by ratepayers".

This comment illustrates a misconception of the working of police grants.

It is true that police authorities receive a specific grant from central government of about one half of police costs. However, this grant like all other specific grants received from central government, is simply a first charge upon the totality of the grant which is made by central government towards the relevant expenditure of local government.

The totality of central government grant is a fixed sum and any increase in amounts paid in specific grants - without the addition of further funds by central government - merely reduces the balance which is distributed to local authorities in the form of a general rate-support grant.

Thus, additional expenditure

faced by police authorities over the miners' dispute will not itself lead to any extra funding by central government.

Indeed, in that most of the 41 police authorities in England and Wales are already spending at or above the level set in expenditure targets by central government, the additional set police expenditure (if it cannot be funded by savings in other police expenditure or other services in the current year) will lead to an increase in the total expenditure of the authority over target.

Unless central government chooses to disregard such "excess" expenditure, it will result in a loss of rate-support grant, since the authority will then suffer a penalty holdback of rate-support grant to which it would otherwise have been entitled.

It should be clearly understood that the help which is readily offered by one police authority to another does not represent any move towards a national police force, but illustrates our real and continuing support for the maintenance of law and order despite the financial consequences, which may be severe.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. CHATFIELD, Chairman,
Police Committee, Westfield, 66a Eaton Square, SW1.

A future for coal

From Mr W. David

Sir, The sentimental call (March 17) from the NUM's Betteshanger Secretary for revitalizing isolated communities echoes those we hear so often for preserving villages, or crofting, or city centres, or whatever: all only possible in a society with an apparent surplus up for grabs.

But the "surplus" extracted from this taxpayer carries a vote and it will always be cast in favour of the future - the child before the old man.

On a purely personal basis, let Mr Harrison show us his beef: does he pay 30 per cent extra for his victuals to keep a corner grocer going? Would he approve a village tax to keep the owner's earnings in line with a miner's?

There never have been "good old days" for any but the occasional short-lived group, even in these sheltered isles; in many parts of the world change is continuous and very instant. Personally, I hope my grandchildren will look on manual mining and factory production lines as we today look back on child labour - saddened that free men with red blood in their veins were so employed.

Those subjected to change in the West today are protected at a level few in the past could hope to achieve, and few in the world have today: protected in health, in education, warmly housed and, yes, entertained. And the will is there - as it should be - to do more; but all are subject to change and there is no

gain for some of us to thrust the begging bowl forcefully down a neighbour's throat, as we saw in the North last week.

Yours faithfully,
W. DAVID,
29 Frogna, Hampstead, NW3.
March 17.

From Mr Walter Kendall

Sir, In his otherwise perceptive comments on the miners' dispute your Labour Editor writes in part (feature, March 16) that "by insisting on an end to all picket lines... the National Union of Mineworkers is effectively demanding the right to manage the industry".

This is surely not the case. The best solution to the endemic problems of the mining industry would indeed be for the workforce to assume responsibility for the conduct of the industry by means of some form of Guild Socialist-style workers' self-management.

Under such a scheme, once advocated by an earlier, wiser generation of miners' leaders, the pithead would assume responsibility for the conduct of the industry, as responsible trustees for the nation.

As it is the miners have some power, but are denied all responsibility, the worst of both worlds for us.

Yours sincerely,
WALTER KENDALL,
52 Palmerston Road,
Wimbledon, SW19.
March 16.

Abolition of GLC

From the Chairman of the Association of Chief Executives of London Boroughs

Sir, Members of the Association of Chief Executives of the London Boroughs are concerned about the report in *The Times* (March 15) under the heading "Boroughs attack GLC abolition". Your readers may well have assumed from the article that all 33 London chief executives have, to use your words, "issued a joint condemnation of the Government's plan to abolish the Greater London Council". This is not the case. The association has no wish to enter into the argument about whether or not the GLC should be abolished.

In common with other professional organizations and bodies it has responded to the Secretary of

State's invitation to comment on the White Paper on *Streamlining the Cities*, but the comments it has made relate to the preferred organizational structure and division of powers which would replace the GLC if abolition goes ahead.

The point I particularly wish to make, however, is that the association's comments have not been endorsed by all London borough chief executives and represent only the view of the majority of those chief executives who were present at the meeting of the association when the matter was finally dealt with. This was made quite clear to the Secretary of State when the association submitted its response.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. J. TRIDGELL, Chairman,
Association of Chief Executives of London Boroughs,
Town Hall,
Romford, Essex.

No future for convoys

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, It is not easy to pick out Admiral Le Bailly's main argument from the surrounding sea clutter of red herrings and echoes of battles long ago (letter, March 15).

Our own point, on the British Atlantic Committee's group, was absolutely clear. By the 1990s convoys will be no longer on. As we put it: "The prospect of reinforcing the land battle in Europe by ships sailing in convoy looks more incredible every year".

We have not heard of anybody since our report was published who has disputed the wholehearted concept of the Atlantic convoy is overdue for reconsideration.

For this nobody is to blame. It is simply a consequence of new technology of precision-guided missiles, soon with 20 times the range of those used by the Argentines, fired from submarines, of which the Soviet Union has upwards of 300, many of them nuclear-powered, and from long-range bombers; air-born mines around European ports; and total real-time surveillance of the whole ocean from Moscow.

We did not stress the danger from Soviet surface warships, precisely because we regard all surface ships

as increasingly vulnerable, including theirs.

In face of these developments we do not call for a "reduction in naval forces". On the contrary, we specifically recommend the deployment of naval units to meet the new Soviet threats to Alliance interests outside Europe.

This task is at once more realistic, urgent and relevant than trying to salvage a leaking strategy which has never in any case fitted in with NATO's land or air strategy.

Yours etc,
HUGH HANNING,
Director of Studies,
The British Atlantic Committee,
30A St James's Square, SW1.

Ringside views

From Dr Harold Hillman and Dr Peter Kandela

Sir, The World Medical Association (WMA) meeting in Venice on October 27, 1983, passed a resolution, stating, *inter alia*, that boxing is a dangerous sport. Unlike other sports, the basic intent of boxing is to produce a brain injury. For this reason, the WMA Medical Association recommends that boxing be banned.

However, the WMA recognised that it was unlikely that boxing would be banned in the near future, so that it also suggested a series of regulatory measures designed to make boxing safer. These included a

National Registry, which would list all boxers and sparring partners, would license bouts, and would document all injuries.

It also recommended conferences with all interested parties to review criteria for examination of boxers, to determine how to prevent brain injury and to develop criteria for the discontinuance of a bout for medical reasons.

The WMA also suggested that ring physicians be authorised to stop fights to examine the contestants and determine whether the bouts should continue. It also urged more safety measures in the ring, such as plastic safety mats and padded corner posts.

It seems clear to us that it will

Need to keep the poor in the warm

From Mr Richard Berthoud

Sir, On Wednesday afternoon (March 21) the House of Commons will debate an Opposition motion on "fuel costs and the poor".

There are several long-term issues concerning the problems of pensioners and families who found it hard enough to keep warm even before the price rises of the past ten years: about the supply and pricing of fuel; about energy efficiency of homes; and about income-support measures. But these long-term issues are often obscured by an immediate and drastic problem, which could be addressed by the Government while it considers solutions on the wider front. Many families cannot buy any fuel at all, because their supply has been disconnected by their electricity or gas board.

Customers who use fuel must be obliged to pay for it somehow, whatever their circumstances. But other means of making people pay have been designed to avoid this draconian penalty, which is meted out by public monopolies, with virtually no legal constraints. Almost all of the families affected are, by the fuel boards' own criteria, at risk of hardship. Disconnection frequently causes suffering and has sometimes led to catastrophe.

The electricity and gas supply industries are as convinced of the necessity of disconnection for non-payment as they would once have been that the earth is flat. When their power is threatened the industries bluster: that everyone will stop paying their bills (they won't); that alternative measures would cost millions (they wouldn't); and that the discretion of the boards' employees on the doorstep provides the best safeguard against hardship (research has clearly shown that it doesn't).

A just debt-collection procedure will not allow customers to evade their obligations. Nor will it solve the wider problems I have referred to, by enabling poor families to afford more fuel. It is needed for its own sake.

The fuel industries have not so far been able to agree on an alternative procedure. If the Secretary of State for Energy were to give notice that their power of disconnection would be terminated one year from today, depend on it Sir, it would concentrate their minds wonderfully.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BERTHOUD,
Policy Studies Institute,
1/2 Castle Lane, SW1.
March 19.

Ghana's economic ills

From Lord Gifford

Sir, How distasteful to find you giving editorial endorsement ("Alas poor Ghana", March 7) to those who are seeking the overthrow of an established Commonwealth government. When the government in question has been the object of a number of attempted coups d'état, mounted by elites with Western backing, such support is little less than incitement to further violence.

In your attack on the present government of Ghana you give no credit for the unquestioned integrity of Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings himself, of the leading members of his Administration and of the new institutions which are trying to deal with the corrupt practices of Ghana's wealthy citizens and companies.

as well as Ghana that the present government should enjoy a prolonged period of stability.

Yours faithfully,
GIFFORD,
35 Wellington Street, WC2.
March 8.

To give an example, the Citizens' Vetting Committee investigating tax evasion found that only a handful of Ghana's barristers had made honest tax returns and many successful lawyers had paid no taxes for years. It is such people who are now bemoaning the good old days from a position of comfortable exile.

Ghana's economic problems are indeed enormous, but there is no instant prescription which can cure an economy which has been infected for years by the corrupt and greedy. In seeking strong links with Western business, and in negotiating a difficult IMF agreement, Ghana deserves our support and not our scorn. It is in the interests of Britain

Cost of education

From Dr P. J. Davies

Sir, Sir Keith Joseph is reported to have told teachers, of whom I am one, that to exceed a 3 per cent increase in wages this year will mean that teachers would be depriving children of the books and materials needed in schools. The argument, apparently, is that the education budget is limited and that teachers' pay is a discredited factor in the amount available to schools.

According to independent evidence presented to the committee concerned with deciding pay increases for teachers, my pay as a teacher is over 30 per cent below the figure agreed in 1974 as reasonable. It would appear that already, then, I am making a considerable sacrifice in my pay to finance children's books and materials.

It might be expected, therefore, that the amount of money to be spent on children's books and materials in schools would be considerably increased, paid for out of the salaries of teachers. In my own department, however, the amount of money I am given to spend on books and materials per child has decreased by 25 per cent in money terms, much more in real terms, in less than four years.

Faced with these figures Sir Keith Joseph's reported remarks seem highly tendentious without a shred of evidence. I must say his attitude makes me very bitter.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. DAVIES,
42 Despers Avenue,
Llantrisant, Glamorgan.

Economies in the NHS

From Sir Rustam Feroze and others

Sir, Whilst we are aware that the financial resources devoted to the NHS have increased over the last three decades, we are concerned about the possible effects of the present round of economies. In the face of a steadily ageing population and the rapidly increasing technical advances of medical and surgical treatment, we fear that future funding may not be sufficient to maintain even the present standard of care.

Medical manpower

From Dr Gillian R. Perry and others

Sir, We read the article, "A prescription for GP conflict" (feature, March 7), with increasing dismay, to which we were disbeliever that anyone could seriously assess the workload of a GP from a small variation in the number of patients on the list.

It has been our experience over the past 15 years that, while the number of patients registered with us has increased slightly, our workload has increased immeasurably more.

Although we accept the need to improve efficiency and for good management, we believe that unless economies are carefully planned in the right areas, there is the danger of a reduction in patient services. Without adequate funding the future development of preventive medicine, health care and the improvement from advances in medicine will be threatened.

We are also deeply concerned that present staffing policies may restrict the training of doctors, dentists, nurses and other health professionals on whom the future of the NHS depends.

Yours faithfully,
RUSTAM FEROZE (President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists),
D. CAMPBELL (Dean, Faculty of Anaesthetists),
ROBERT CURRAN (President, Royal College of Paediatrics),
R. DUCKWORTH (Dean, Faculty of Dental Surgery),
JAMES FRASER (President, Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh)),
RONALD GIRDWOOD (President, Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh)),
R. HOFFENBERG (President, Royal College of Physicians (London)),
J. G. KIRKER (President, Royal College of Physicians (Ireland)),
E. O'MALLEY (President, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland),
KEN RAWNSLEY (President, Royal College of Psychiatrists),
W. M. ROSS (President, Royal College of Radiologists),
G. SLANEY (President, Royal College of Surgeons (England)),
ALWYN SMITH (President, Faculty of Community Medicine),
P. J. TAYLOR (Dean, Faculty of Occupational Medicine),
T. J. THOMSON (President, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow)),
Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and their Faculties in the UK,
Department of Pathology,
The Medical School,
University of Birmingham,
Birmingham.

There are a number of reasons for this, including, as you mention, the earlier discharge of patients from hospital and the care of the chronically sick in the community rather than in institutions, but also the ageing of the population and, most importantly, the social disintegration of society with increase in marital breakdown etc.

This has resulted in more anxiety and depression and considerably more stress-related illness of all kinds. When there are family problems or crisis the GP is often one of the first people to be involved.

We accept that there are areas where economies could and should be made, but after working in and for the NHS for 20, 21 and seven years respectively, we would ask that, before "solutions" are imposed from on high, an adequate assessment should be made of work actually done in a working day that now seldom includes the luxury of a "lunch hour".

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN R. PERRY,
ANDREW J. CHAPPEL,
ROGER M. PAWSON,
45 Dollar Street,
Gloucestershire.

Venice preserved

From Mrs Margaret Smith

Sir, Would it be possible, through your columns, to express to the Royal Academy and the sponsors a deep debt of gratitude for the magnificent exhibition, "The Genius of Venice", which so many people have been enjoying in recent weeks.

Many of us who are elderly feel we shall never again see all these paintings gathered together under one roof.

One comes away with a lift to the heart and feeling that, after all, civilization is alive and well!

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET SMITH,
30 Bromley College,
London Road,
Bromley,
Kent.
March 17.

THE ARTS

The cellist Paul Tortelier today celebrates his seventieth birthday with a book, a record album, a concert... and an interview by Hilary Finch

A lifetime spent in search of melody

Young men see visions, and old men, they say, dream dreams. Today, the first of spring, Paul Tortelier celebrates his seventieth birthday with a concert with his family at the Barbican, and with the publication of an autobiography, *Paul Tortelier: A Self-Portrait* (Heinemann). The dedication of the book is simply "To my friends, the young, who carry our hope for tomorrow."

"An artist feels young until he dies, so we feel very close to youth. We have a tendency when we advance in life to become a bit pessimistic. But this feeling of uncertainty, of *malaise*, is shared by the youth today, and that was never before. There is something serious. These toys we have invented, machine computers, let alone nuclear toys, they worry everybody."

"It is worrying when people just press buttons [my cassette recorder on the table receives a physical reprimand] - excuse me. Our hands are the most noble part of our being, with our brain. Matisse said that, in the history of man, the tool was the *prolongement* of the hand. But now the hand becomes the extension of the tool. We have to think very

carefully if we want to make a *fait en avant*, an escape ahead..."

Tortelier pouts once more at the informal recording machine then asks mischievously: "What, then, do we retain of progress? I would say, let's retain the washing machine for the ladies, because I am very close to the ladies. And the bicycle. But the aeroplane? I wonder. It has brought more unity in the world. We know now that the Germans, the Russians, the Turks are not monsters, and that is important. But the plane works for time and against time, because we feel obliged to do more things in one day. If I can be in Paris this afternoon and in this evening in Mexico, I will have less time to talk to you! Bach said that time is the only thing that is not given twice to us. *Alors*, we must use it well..."

I pointed Tortelier to a passage in

his book where he quotes Casals speaking after a conversation with Schweitzer:

"Do you know what Schweitzer told me? Casals asked. 'He said that I should play again for the world - that it is better to create than to protest. But I am a human being first and a musician second. When I see how the world has abandoned my people I must protest. I cannot play - I cannot play.'"

"Yes, Casals did not protest with music. He was hurt about what had happened in Spain; he had perhaps lost hope; and he protested with silence. That is the difference. I don't know if it is possible to protest with music." Tonight Tortelier will perform his variations for solo cello and orchestra on "May Music save Peace." Composition for him is an integral part of performance and of the musician's particular vocation.

"I was lucky enough to have time

to study composition in the seven years or so between 14 and 22. I had no engagements. I was not successful in music or love (my mother protected me from women). So I was confined in Paris. Tortelier later took a sabbatical when he was 55 to complete the studies in counterpoint which he had begun in 1936. "And possibly I have still *la sève* - how you say - the sap in me."

"One reason for composing, you see, is to extend one's passage in time; but performers feel they do this now with records. So performers don't compose. *Tout* Records are bad: we call it creation, but it is mere production. It is good for the public, but not for the professional. Records are a lie." A three-disc anthology of Tortelier's recordings is released by HMV today as part of the celebrations (SLS 2700013).

Tortelier mourns not only the vanished performer-composer, but also the loss of melody itself. "You know Beethoven valued Mozart most highly because he wrote more tunes than any other composer. Puccini and Bizet, he said, wrote 75 tunes, but Mozart wrote 350! Now that is not as stupid as you may think. To bring to the world a beautiful tune is a great achievement. Anyone can invent effects, instrumentation. It took Beethoven a lifetime to find the melody of his Ninth Symphony. But it didn't take him a lifetime to decide to put it in the cellos and basses."

"And Bizet too! When I was in China I sang 'Tortorador' to a mistress of 100 Chinese from distant provinces, including Mongolia, and when I reached the third bar 100 Chinese sang with me. This is not theatre: this is life, passion, the

sun biting your skin. That is what is Bizet. And it reached the heart of China."

"The trouble now is that composers don't have the necessity to compose. In France we say 'nécessité fait loi'. Paganini had to play his music. Mozart was engaged to play his music. Now we have the repertoire, and *nécessité* doesn't exist. But I have an idea for bringing the *nécessité*. I regret international music competitions, but we can use them. Let's make one for soloists in the great tradition of the performer-composer. In the first stages, they will have to start with variations of their own on a classical theme. This will be 1990. They will need that time to learn composition..."

"My dream, my dear friend, would not be so much to play and play, because I am not sure people understand what I explain to them in my music. My dream would be to create not a school - I don't have the money or the talent of my colleague Mr. Menuhin - but simply *allégier* the formation of the performer-composer. There will be no records there. Scores, yes, and white music paper, a pencil, and three erasers for every pencil..."

Television

Approach to parody

There cannot be much more to say about *The Jewel in the Crown* (Granada), now that Barbie has gone and, not a moment too soon, the Hiroshima bomb has brought all of the tedious fire-symbolism to a conclusion. Indian politics is no substitute, however, and something else was needed to enliven a narrative which has come close to parody over the last three weeks.

The army scenes themselves have been in the manner of a Comic Strip presentation - Five Go Mad in Pankoti, lashings of gin-fizz and last one out of India is a sissy. It was doubly fortunate, then, that Corporal "Sophie" Dixon should make an extended appearance: he has a juicy tale or two to while away the sultry afternoons, and in last night's episode he was able to entertain the insufferably nice Perron with a gay version of *Mrs Miniver*.

This series has really offered the opportunity to study the English temperament in extremis - the War and India being suitable theatres for the operation. It is, in that sense, rather staid; the most powerful characters could have walked straight out of Victorian melodrama, and the most interesting scenes have been melodramatic also. That may not be the definition of good television, but it is close enough to it for most people.

Hard Feelings (BBC 1) would not have lured anyone back into modern life. This was a drama concocted around a group of Oxford graduates temporarily sharing a house in Brixton. It was not difficult to tell that they were 'graduates' - they either said very dull things in bright voices or indulged in self-pitying monologues of a most unadventurous kind. The effect on an audience was rather like that of being left bound and gagged in a wine bar somewhere off the King's Road.

As an illustration of some of the worst effects of higher education, it may have served a purpose. That may even have been the intention of the writer, Doug Lucie, but good intentions can be as fatal in art as they are in life.

Certainly the dramatic potential of the exercise was rather limited; with a cast that included a northern boy with spectacles, a "radical" journalist, a part-time model and a putative rock star, the play seemed as contrived as a game show. There were some references to lesbianism for younger viewers, and the noises of a race-rival to add a little "advance" to a play that might otherwise have passed as a social drama of a conventional, not to say outmoded, kind. A few references to fashionable restaurants and fashionable causes (if there is a difference) were not enough to guarantee authenticity.

Peter Ackroyd

Camden Jazz Week

John Surman
Logan Hall

John Surman had prepared several compositions which were models of inspiring imagination, but the core of the superb performance by his quintet at the opening concert of the 1984 Camden Jazz Week on Monday night was the intimate understanding which flowed between the participants.

Surman, Kenny Wheeler, John Taylor, Chris Laurence and John Marshall have worked together, on and off, for more than 15 years; in the process each has refined his style, moving away from mainstream American models towards genuine individuality. When they perform together, the effect of originality is multiplied.

Although the leader played one solo on soprano saxophone, so intense in its extreme vocalization that the audience roared approval, the music was at its most distinguished when Taylor and Laurence were conversing on piano and double bass. The pianist achieved in one brief but indelible linking passage the effect of figures drifting in a thin mist; his touch is so exquisite that he can make the instrument seem to catch its breath. Laurence, brilliantly sensitive, made effective use of the deep, rich growl provided by an extension to his instrument's lowest string.

Marshall's drums, and in particular a ride cymbal of uncommonly fine tone, set and triggered the sprung rhythms which kept the horn players on their toes. Surman's baritone saxophone produced the cries of some huge and exotic sea-bird; his bass clarinet moved with an appealing bandy-legged gait. On trumpet and flugelhorn Wheeler produced those slalom rides which dizzy the inner ear; the occasional use of a cornet seemed to slow his lines down to mortal pace, lending them, too, a fresher bloom.

Amina Claudine Myers, a pianist and singer from Chicago, preceded Surman with a set which displayed elements of the keyboard styles of Bud Powell and McCoy Tyner combined with a likable vocal approach located somewhere between Nina Simone and Roberta Flack. Although true originality was hard to detect, she was impressive in the gathering thunder of "Song For Mother Earth", built on a circular gospel-music phrase, and in the deceptive simplicity of "Straight to You", an altered blues in 6/4 spiced with the occasional five-beat bar. Her bassist, Thomas Parker, would probably have been more effective on an acoustic instrument, but the deft, discreet and propulsive contribution of her drummer, Reggie Nicholson, was beyond reproach.

Richard Williams



John Surman: intense vocalization

John Drummond, former director of the Edinburgh Festival, assesses Adelaide Philharmonia plants a grand milestone

On the Festival-Plaza the silver windmills glitter in the relentless March sun. One of Australia's coolest summers is going out in a blaze of heat, reinforcing the slightly sleepy atmosphere of Adelaide itself. Only at night does the festival creep out from the shade and lift the city with activity, argument and fireworks.

It is just a year since Elijah Moshinsky, Director Designate for 1984, parted company with the board and the former director, Anthony Steel, already appointed for 1986, came back at a few months' notice to pull together the programme. The presence of 15 foreign and 27 Australian companies is a measure of his success and of the value of his previous experience of the city and its possibilities. From Moshinsky's plan, rejected largely on financial grounds, only the Australian tour of the Philharmonia Orchestra - remarkably, their first - and the Band of the Coldstream Guards survive. The proposed production of *Tosca* and *Isolde* was cancelled, and, with just a few months to go, the State Opera of South Australia decided on Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of the Mzensk District* in its place.

Adelaide has a strong tradition of outstanding festival opera productions, using largely native talent but often with overseas stiffening, like Moshinsky's notable 1982 production of *The Makropoulos Case* with Elisabeth Söderström. This year the whole enterprise is Antipodean. Beverly Bergen in the title role is from New

Zealand, but everyone else is either Australian by birth or by choice. In geographical as well as psychological terms nowhere on earth feels more remote from pre-Revolutionary Russia than South Australia.

Surprisingly, in a country that boasts a large number of outstanding singers, the honours went to the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. Could this really be the group that a previous festival director described as unable to play in tune and unusable in the festival - a remark which cost him much support in the city? Under the direction of Patrick Thomas, who has recently given some impressive concerts with the BBC Philharmonia Orchestra, they played with real virtuosity. It is a score, eclectic, witty, grotesque, a scrap book of a young composer's aural ambitions. I could find no weakness.

The problems - for problems there were - lay elsewhere. Peter Cook, the designer, devised an elegant and effective series of lattice screens and skeleton houses, like the timbered ghost of a Russian town, marked only by one, intermittent, scene change before the final Siberian denouement. The costumes however were pure school play.

Here is the monster Stalin himself, smashing both gramophone records and the confidence of the composer for the good of the people; a flawed play but a fascinating juxtaposition. And, interwoven between the opera performances, the emigre Russian Vladimir Ashkenazy was providing daily illustration of what the Soviet Union still sacrifices in its persistent desire to bring art into line with bureaucracy.

Ashkenazy and the Philharmonia Orchestra, in a sequence of six concerts, played all nine Beethoven symphonies and the five piano concertos conducted from the keyboard. A Beethoven cycle may seem unremarkable in London or Manchester. It was a milestone in music-making in Australia. Sold out long before the festival began, it emerged as a massive musical rock in a plain of barely adequate drama.

I admired particularly the thoughtful, attentive contribution of the orchestra to the inevitable problems of conductorless concertos. The slow movement of the First Concerto became chamber music on the highest level. Ashkenazy's Beethoven is all light and energy. Not for him the soul-searching of a Klemperer or the awesome simplicity of a Haitink. Fast tempi, bright colours: everything seemed to be *con brio*. Much was inevitably missing, but the finale of the Seventh Symphony, taken at a breakneck speed, arrived home without disaster and rightly drew the audience to their feet in genuine delight. Real festival stuff.

Much of this discretion undoubtedly filtered through from the leadership of Shmuel Ashkenazy. Both as soloist and chamber musician, he plays always "with a sweet, infinite care which surfaced characteristically in his descent filigree to the opening of the second movement and in the finale's brilliant dashing figuration. But here, this very attention to detail, so delightful and refreshing in itself, together with a reluctance to draw up for breath or to take stock where necessary, began to sap the music's impetus. It was a warning of what was to be in the Schubert A minor D804 Quartet.

This, quite properly, is one of Schubert's most intimate quartets; and intimacy, again, was clearly the Vermeer's intention. Volume was finely scaled down, but, without an inner intensity of timbre, of rhythm and of phrase tension, such refinement becomes counterproductive and merely enervates both the work and its performance. The first movement's *ma non troppo* applied, alas, to far more than the speed indication; the

Intimate Pages Sadler's Wells

Christopher Bruce's ballet to Janáček's String Quartet No 2 had its London premiere on Monday, confirming me in the high opinion I formed of it when first given at Birmingham last month. This is an elegant score, with its strong patterns, deeply emotional quality and local colour. Bruce alone, of the choreographers I have seen tackle it, seems really to have come to grips with it. In return for his care and fidelity, the music has coaxed him to a rewarding level of imagination and achievement.

The content of the ballet is clearly related to the composer's life, as Bruce's programme note delicately hints, but the re-

lationship of the central couple needs no biographical knowledge to understand. Bruce has developed it in a rich complexity of movement imagery (sinking, supporting, joining, parting, looking, touching) that makes everything clear and moving, an expression of feelings that many will share and almost all understand.

Watching it expressively played out by Frances Cary and Albert van Nierop, two of the most distinctive dancers in the company, I was struck by the similarity of Bruce's intentions, although not his methods, with what Antony Tudor was trying to do for Ballet Rambert 50 years ago, just as the company's other important choreographer, Richard Alston, parallels the young Ashton.

Both *Intimate Pages* and Robert North's popular, unde-

Vermeer Quartet St John's/Radio 3

Haydn's Op 71 quartets were some of the first written for public chamber concerts in London. It was strangely ironic then, that in front of a large audience in St John's, Smith Square, at lunchtime on Monday, and to hundreds more listeners on Radio 3, the Vermeer Quartet should have presented such a particularly restrained and private performance of the first B flat major quartet.

The call to attention of the five opening notes, for example, the work's extrovert vitality, and its assertive, flourishing cadences, were all played down; the sound was clear and bright, the thinking lucid, the part-writing urbane, never once over-pressing its claims.

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Concerts

Andante lived by fitful bursts of artificial respiration, and the growth of conflict within the finale seemed merely superimposed, lacking nourishment from its roots. For all its sensitivity to nuance, its delicate balance of parts, this was a curiously bloodless performance, distinctive only in its pale fusion of predictable response and erratic wavering of energy.

Hilary Finch

London debuts

A graduate of the Paris Conservatoire, Yoko B-Katayama showed that instinct for Chopin so often found among Orientals in a strong and vivid account of the *Polonaise-Fantaisie*. A poetic sensibility was also apparent in grandly phrased playing of the B minor Sonata, although she seemed overfond of spread chords in the opening movement and allowed the quaver triplets of the finale to lurch too much.

In Debussy's *Estampes* there was a well-judged sense of perspective in "Pagodes" and a subtly tinged pictorial impression in "Jardins sous la pluie", but "Soirée dans Grenade" was more effective for graded dynamics than feeling for the habanera rhythm. Her playing of Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* persuaded this listener that there is actually more character in the piano version than in the composer's orchestration.

Accompanied by an impressive pedigree of studies, including five years with Jascha Heifetz (whose music assistant she has been in Los Angeles master classes), the violinist Sherry Kloss sounded surprisingly coarse in tone and suspect in intonation in her opening Beethoven Sonata (Op 12 No 1). Her indulgently romantic style was more suited to the surging grandiloquence of the Richard Strauss Sonata, with Gerald Robbins an attentive

The Set-Up Gate

Alexander, Sukhovo-Kobylin's *The Death of Tarelkin* (to give its usual title) keeps cropping up in reference books and sounds intriguing: a farcical indictment of Tsarist corruption and brutality by a man who spent seven years being imprisoned and tortured for a crime he did not commit. Written in 1959, it was not staged until 1980; its author, then 83, fell victim to the censorship that had bedevilled Pushkin and Gogol.

It had never been seen in England, and in a sense I feel I still have not seen it. Russian comedy so often seems to remain in a foreign language after translation, and this version (uncredited) is a useless mixture of musty colloquialisms ("You damned chatter-box, you can go to Hell") and translationese. Is "language to death" English? Come to that, is it Russian?

Anticipating *Slav Banzel* is dead by a hundred years, the peevish clerk Tarelkin (Paul Bradley) assumes the identity of a respectable dead neighbour and announces his own demise.

Theatre

His happy freedom then ceases abruptly when he finds he has lost both identities, both being officially dead.

This promising start could have led in a number of directions. Disappointingly, Sukhovo-Kobylin opts for a police inspector convinced that the suspect is a vampire, and discussions about turning into objects. There is the usual succession of pompous bureaucrats with jolky names, the usual chain of bribes from the ever-ravenous inspector to the superior officer expecting 100 roubles.

These cartoon characters offer the actors nothing, but Nick Shearman's production, putting them in dead white or florid make-up, is a model of precision in staging and timing. After the suitably absurd charge-room double-act by Duncan Faber and Paul Alexander, the finale is impressive: the tormented Mr Bradley, bawling the vital evidence of his boss's corruption for a glass of water, given back his false identity as a favour, and decaying into an ingratiating rural capitalist. But the case for the play rests unproven.

Anthony Masters

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lawson directs the last British picture show?

The British film industry is a bit like a state home: it is nice to have one but it is expensive to maintain. For the last five years the industry has been fighting for the right to receive 100 per cent first year capital allowances. The battle now seems to be lost with the Chancellor's Budget decision to phase out first year allowances. The film industry is hurt, financially and personally. With some justice: it was only last year that Mr Nicholas Ridley, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced that the transitional provisions in the 1982 Finance Act granting the film industry 100 per cent first year allowances were to be extended on the 1983 Finance Act until March 31, 1987.

The Inland Revenue is clearly unmoved by the *Chariots of Fire*, *Local Hero* and *Oscar* for all school of thought and its line is essentially "Well that's showbusiness". If the Chancellor cannot be persuaded to have second thoughts before the 1984 Finance Bill is drafted, the scene is set for lights, sound and action on what could be the last picture show.

Mr Ken Maidment, president of the British Film and Television Producers Association, is furious. He is concerned that the number of British films will now decline, although films already in production should not be affected.

His view is endorsed by accountants. Arthur Andersen who also point out the wider implications for the Cable TV industry. "The British film industry may now attract substantial investment over the next two years before the first year allowances are phased out. However, in the long term, investment will be adversely affected. Lack of investment could damage a vital source of programming for cable operators particularly in view of the requirement to show programmes of EEC origin".

Adding up to boom time

Strong evidence of the Anglo-American boom came yesterday from the government statisticians on both sides of the Atlantic. Although the US figures look more spectacular, the British economy was probably growing more strongly at the turn of the year than the American.

The British publish figures for gross domestic product, Americans for gross national product (which includes net transfers from abroad). The really important difference lies in the American habit of publishing quarterly figures at an annual rate, and making early, or "flash" guesses at growth even before the end of the quarter. For January-March this year, the "Flash" figure, a very flashy growth rate of 7.2 per cent appears to outclass the British figure published on the same day: a gdp growth rate of 1.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1983. However, that British growth figure, nearly 6½ per cent at an American-style annual rate, is comfortably above the final American figure of 5 per cent gdp growth in the last quarter of 1983. So the two economies appear to be speeding neck-and-neck.

Once the figures are taken apart, some highly significant differences emerge. The British figure is very much an average, calculated from three measures of output, income and expenditure. In theory, these three ways of adding up gdp should give the same answer. In practice, the three answers have been moving farther and farther apart. By the fourth quarter of 1983, the expenditure measure of gdp was 8 per cent higher than in the pit of the slump, the output measure only a miserable 2½ per cent. So while growth in the expenditure measure proved strong enough to drag the average above its previous peak (registered in 1979) for the first time, the output measure is still lower than when Mrs Thatcher took office.

The flash American gdp figure upset US bonds yesterday. By mid-morning in New

York, the US long bond, Treasury 12 per cent 2013, was down ¼ at 95½. Futures were also flat. Administration officials moved quickly to dispel fears that the economy was in danger of overheating. Mr Martin Feldstein, head of the US Council of Economic Advisers, observed that "the economy is on a powerful roll, but I am not worried about overheating, because a large part of the increased output is going into inventory accumulation. Price pressures remain under control".

Credit markets now expect the Federal Reserve Board to tighten monetary policy. Mr Paul Volcker, the Fed, chairman, has said repeatedly in recent weeks that the US economy cannot sustain a 6 to 7 per cent growth rate without rekindling inflation. Last night, the US Trust Company raised its broker loan rate to 11 per cent from 10½ per cent with immediate effect, as the Fed funds rate rose to an average of 10½ per cent from 10.07 per cent.

Markets will face a test of confidence very shortly over the Administration's mini-refunding package. Imminent late last night was news of the \$15 billion - plus package, which is expected to involve the sale of 4-and-7-year notes, plus 20-year bonds.

High-speed North Sea doubts

Whitehall is buzzing with heated argument between the Treasury, the Department of Energy and the British Gas Corporation over whether or not British Gas should be allowed to import some £20 billion of new gas supplies from Norway from the 1990s onwards. The deal is being held up, rightly, by considerable Treasury doubts about the wisdom of committing the country to such an important deal before the considerable strategic and macro-economic implications have been thought through.

Some of the arguments against the deal are rehearsed in a pamphlet by a Bow Group economist, Mr Rodney Atkinson, published yesterday. He points out that the deal will commit Britain to an annual balance of payments burden of £1,500m a year in the 1990s just as the contribution from North Sea oil exports is beginning to decline. The deal could also stifle hopes of developing new British gas fields in the southern North Sea by effectively extending British Gas's *de facto* monopoly grip over indigenous gas supplies.

Mr Atkinson calculates that the Government stands to lose £500m of tax revenue for every trillion cubic feet of reserves that are not developed in this way; official estimates are that there are 33 trillion cubic feet of undeveloped reserves on the UK Continental Shelf, so the potential loss is huge. An upsurge in gas development activity would also lead to thousands of new jobs and profit opportunities here. Like the oil companies he believes that the only way to establish a true market value for our offshore gas is to allow gas exports, a move that would have the added strategic advantage of tying us directly into the European gas pipeline network.

The argument is complex. British Gas makes the valid point for example that it would be rash to develop all our indigenous gas supplies as fast as we could if the result was to leave the country with the "reentry problems" of suddenly having to switch back to total reliance on imports. It doubts whether there is as much gas in the UK Continental Shelf as the oil companies say. It believes - correctly - that gas consumers have done well out of Britain underpricing its gas over the last 20 years.

What is clear, however, is that there is no logic or consistency in the widely different way that Britain goes about depleting its oil and gas reserves.

White Paper for protection of investors likely this year

By Our City Staff

As the Stock Exchange Council met yesterday to consider financing proposals for the future structure and regulation of the stock market, it became clear that the Government is determined to force the pace of change in the City.

While the Department of Trade and Industry is satisfied with the progress made so far, it intends to crystallize the Gower Report on investor protection and the City's response to it into a White Paper by the end of the year.

The workings of Whitehall demand that a preliminary clear view be taken of the main issues before Parliament rises for the summer recess. An Investor Protection Bill could be introduced in the 1985-86 session, not long after the stock market takes the plunge into newly negotiated commissions.

The arrival of the clearing banks on the stock market, through plans for taking 29 per cent stakes in leading jobbing and broking firms, marks the completion of what is regarded as stage one in the transformation of the Stock Exchange. The market is now prepared to

Independent Cazenove

Cazenove & Co, among the City's most conservative stock brokers, yesterday gave a hint that it wished to remain independent for as long as possible.

Despite new partnerships emerging as part of the City changes, Cazenove has set up an international dealership all of its own.

Cazenove Securities will be wholly owned by Cazenove & Co

and will act as a principal, matching share deals on overseas securities from April 9 and taking a position in a particular stock only, if it feels that the order could be matched in another market.

Mr John Kemp-Welch, Cazenove's senior partner, said last night: "It will not go out aggressively making two-way prices in an enormous number of overseas securities."

Yesterday the Stock Exchange Council also began considering on what terms outsiders will be allowed to become insiders.

One of the more radical proposals in the Stock Exchange "green paper" on its changes is to switch from offering membership to individuals to offering membership to firms via corporate "seats".

These seats would be a tradable commodity, but anyone wanting to deal would have to pay a high price to gain entry. No clear decision has yet been

imposed a price reporting legislation on those market makers or agents who remain non-members. Price would have to be logged with an exchange-controlled register.

Close observers say that together these measures are an attempt to keep a specific circle of securities dealers and market makers inside the stock market, making it as difficult as possible for outsiders to break in.

The exchange council yesterday spent three and a quarter hours going through the 66-page report seeking clarification on a number of points. A further meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, after which the paper will be issued to its 4,200 members for discussion, with a debate in May and some firm proposals on how the Stock Exchange sees its future emerging in June.

This timetable would link into that informally agreed within the Department of Trade and Industry to deal with legislation on the Gower Report.

Government sources say, submissions by the Stock Exchange will not merely be accepted without question. The issue of establishing a "seat" allocation exchange is unlikely to meet with immediate approval.

It is ironic that the stand he made against the increasing centralisation of British Leyland was later endorsed by Sir Michael Edwards and put into operation during his five years as chairman of BL.

Mr Turnbull then spent three years in South Korea as Vice-president of the Hyundai motor company, helping to build an embryo motor industry.

He joined Chrysler U.K. as chairman in January 1979, soon after it was purchased by Peugeot and later renamed Talbot. Late last year he announced he would not be renewing his contract when it expired at the end of this month.

Talbot Motors UK declared its first annual profit for 10 years, announced that another former BL executive, Mr Geoffrey Whalen, Talbot's assistant managing director, is to succeed Mr Turnbull as chief executive.

Talbot, made a trading profit of £18m and a net profit of £3.1m last year, compared with a net loss of £54.7m in 1982 and a massive £304m loss over the previous four years.

Bio-Isolates 'set for US joint venture'

By Andrew Cornelius

Bio-Isolates, the controversial Welsh Bio-Technology group quoted on the USM, announced plans yesterday for expansion into the lucrative American health-foods market.

The company, whose shares peaked at 450p before falling back to a current low of 63p, also promised a statement this summer on ambitious expansion plans.

The chairman, Mr Douglas Palmer, said at the annual meeting in Swansea that the group expected to sign a \$3m agreement this week to build a production plant in the US to manufacture BIPRO its protein extract product.

Mr Palmer said it was planned to set up a 50-50 venture to manufacture BIPRO with a US health foods company.

Bio-Isolates will build the plant and provide technical expertise, leaving the marketing of BIPRO, a protein extract from the cheese-making process, to the American company. The aim will be to attack the US protein health food market worth \$100m a year.

Company representatives later explained that the US venture could be the first of a series of joint ventures aimed at exploiting Bio-Isolates' expertise.

Hill Samuel, the merchant bank led by James Capel, stockbrokers, have been appointed as advisors to help improve the company's image, tarnished after the shares rose from 33p, at the time of the company's placing in July 1982, to 450p before falling back to a low of 63p.

The company and its advisors hope to exploit the potential of BIPRO and will be announcing a number of new products at the Healthier health food exhibition in Brighton next month, including a high-protein fruit drink, with BIPRO added making it a "food-in-a-drink", low-fat cakes, and low-fat pastry.

By July, the group will be ready to announce ambitious expansion plans.

Talbot chief for Inchcape

By Clifford Webb and Philip Robinson

Mr George Turnbull, the chairman and managing director of Talbot Motors UK, is to be the new managing director of the Inchcape Group.

The announcement coincides with news of Talbot's first annual profit for 10 years.

Mr Turnbull, aged 57, the key figure in boardroom changes by Sir David Orr, Inchcape's chairman, has extensive experience in the motor industry, the Middle East and Far East.

"I didn't hire him just a motor man," Sir David said last night from Rotterdam. "I brought him in for the benefit of his international business experience. He did a splendid job with Talbot but I think I found it rather limiting. I cannot tell you what he will be paid."

Mr Turnbull will start in September, replacing Mr Peter Foxon who is to retire.

Inchcape has extensive interests in car distribution in this country and overseas, including Toyota GB, the UK concession for Japan's biggest motor manufacturer.

Burton to woo older women

By Jonathan Clare

The Burton Group, one of the most successful fashion retailers in the high street, is gearing up for a bigger share of the market in women's wear for over 30s.

Demographic changes will put more disposable income into the hands of women in this age group and Burton intends to expand its Peter Robinson chain from three to 250 stores to meet the demand.

Mr Michael Wood, Burton's financial director, said yesterday he expected to have completed plans by the time the full-year results are announced in November.

Burton, which already trades from larger than average shops, is acquiring more big stores, especially for its Dorothy Perkins branches. Women's wear is also being sold experimentally through 30 of the traditional Burton menswear branches. The group is also considering setting up a chain of perfume shops.

The half-year results announced yesterday show profits up by 45 per cent from £18.2m to £26.1m, about what the City expected. Mr Ralph Halpern, chairman, said the improvement had come across the board. The group's high street names include Burton, Jackson, Top Man, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Evans (which has not dropped the "Outsize" from its name), Peter Robinson and the recently acquired Fenton. Fenton, bought for £3.5m from Combined English Stores three months ago, contributed 2 per cent to the 40 per cent sales increase in menswear.

Margins increased slightly, against expectations, from 12.6 per cent to 12.7 per cent. The interim dividend has been increased from 1.55p (adjusted) to 2p.

A question mark hangs over the future of the group's retail business in Britain. It is being watched carefully by senior directors and unless an improvement in materials, the group will be seeking to increase revenue through changing higher commissions or reduce costs by cutting the service to customers.

Shares at new peak

Share prices rebounded with a vengeance yesterday, as the FT Index came within a whisker of the important 900 mark, leading 145 to 897.6 - its highest level ever.

Government securities recovered earlier falls of up to 25p, to close almost unchanged on the day. Sterling closed 70 points lower at \$1.4375 against a firm dollar yesterday and also lost ground against other leading currencies. It slipped half a penny against the Deutsche mark to 3.7925.

The DM 2.64 in European trading and closed up 1 penny at DM 2.6365.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1123.3 up 13.6
High: 1125.1; Low: 1110.0
FT Index: 897.6 up 14.5
FT 100s: 83.15 up 0.65
Bargains: 26,448
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 111.38 down 0.01
New York: Dow Jones Average: 1774.38 down 12.98
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: Closed
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1189.12 down 1.25
Amsterdam: 188.3 down 0.6
Sydney: AD Index 781.9 down 3.9
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1032.3 up 0.1
Brussels: General Index: 144.97 down 0.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4375 down 70pts
Index 80.8 down 0.2
DM 3.7925 down 0.0050
FF 11.6750 down 0.01
Yen 325.0 down 1.0
Dollars 127.2 unchanged
DM 2.6365 up 0.0108
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4405
Dollars DM 2.6330
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.590113
SDR 16.73537

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 8½%
Finance houses base rate 9½%
Discount market loans week fixed 8½-9
3 month interbank 8½-9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½-10%
3 month DM 8½-9½%
3 month FF 15½-15%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.50
Fed funds 10½%
Treasury long bond 95½-95½%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period February 8 to March 6, 1984 inclusive: 9.973 per cent.

ANOTHER BOOST FOR OUR WITH PROFITS POLICY HOLDERS.

NEW BUSINESS PREMIUMS INCREASED IN ALL SECTORS. Ordinary business - UK up 129% and up 76% worldwide. New personal pension and investment linked policy premiums up 86%. A record year all round.

A TREMENDOUS LEAP IN NEW BUSINESS FOR 1983

New premiums for ordinary business worldwide were 76% greater than in the previous year. This exceeds by a large margin the inflation rates in all the three countries in which we do business - the UK, the Republic of Ireland and Canada.

The increase in total premiums in Group Life and Pension business at 9% was satisfactory considering the continuing high levels of unemployment. Although the last year has been exceptional there are already signs that the high level of new business is being maintained. Total assets of the Group are now approaching £7 billion.

UNITED KINGDOM - ORDINARY BUSINESS

New annual premiums on endowment mortgage policies were £63m, four times higher than the previous year. The remaining new premiums including both individual pension contracts and investment linked policies totalled £90m, up 86%. Thus, in addition to the large increase in endowments to cover loans for house purchase, our new Personal Pension Policy proved popular and there was a threefold jump in the amount of our Capital Investment Bonds sold last year.

This year we have completed the equipping of all our major branches with terminals linked directly to our central computer in Edinburgh and we are now able to print quotations within seconds of a request being entered. Over the year we have been able to provide employment for an additional 141 staff.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND - ORDINARY BUSINESS

The bulk of the new premiums in the Republic of Ireland were single premiums, IR£28m for Guaranteed Bonds and IR£18m for Capital Investment Bonds. The outstanding performance of our linked funds has undoubtedly contributed to the fivefold increase in the amount

During the year, we invested \$368m in respect of the UK and Republic of Ireland life assurance and annuity funds - £172m in ordinary shares, £43m in property, and £143m in fixed interest and index linked securities. In Canada, our investment of \$182m was allocated \$124m to fixed interest investments and \$58 to ordinary shares and property.

VALUATION BONUS

The valuation basis is unchanged from last year except for a strengthening for annuities in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Investment conditions have continued to be favourable and we have been able to retain our exceptionally high rate of reversionary bonuses while making significant increases in the rates of terminal bonus in the United Kingdom and in the Republic of Ireland. As in previous years, we can claim that few companies, if any, will be able to match the returns to policyholders that these bonuses produce.

This year sees a triennial declaration of bonus on the group pension policies issued in Canada. Favourable investment experience has allowed us to increase the rate of bonus compared with the previous triennium.

BUDGET

In his Budget the Chancellor announced the withdrawal of life assurance premium relief on all new policies. However, the returns on a with profit policy depend far more on the life company's bonus record than on the enhancement due to premium relief. Standard Life's policies remain one of the best investments available. Tax relief on pension plans, which have been a growing area of our business, remains unaffected.

STAFF

These excellent results reflect great credit on all our staff but particularly this year on those in the UK who tackled with such dedication the exceptional burden imposed on them by the unprecedented volume of new business. Mr G.C. Philip, F.F.A., Deputy General Manager and Secretary since 1973, retired at the end of March after 37 years of distinguished service in many capacities.

DIRECTORS

Mr B.D. Missall, C.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S.E., will retire at the Annual General Meeting having served as a director since January 1970, including three years as Deputy Chairman. A resolution will be put to the Annual General Meeting on 27th March 1984 to elect Mr G.D. Gwill, M.A., F.F.A., General Manager of the Company, to the Board of Directors.

Standard Life
FOR ALL OF YOUR LIFE
Head Office: 1 George Street, Edinburgh

NEWS IN BRIEF

New suitor for Sharpe

A mystery suitor is poised to enter the battle for control of W N Sharpe, the Bradford-based greeting cards group. Octopus Publishing Group, which has already declared its interest in bidding held talks with Sharpe yesterday.

The moment the two sides began to discuss price it became apparent that which is using Hill Samuel as advisor, was prepared to offer more and a formal announcement that talks with a third party were going on was released to the Stock Exchange.

Oil consumption in Britain dropped by almost 3 million tonnes last year compared with 1982, and by 34 per cent compared with 1973, according to the Institute of Petroleum, more.

The Spanish Government said yesterday it would dispose of its shareholdings in HOTASA, the second largest group of resort and commercial hotels in Spain. Formal offers must be in by June 6.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$393.70 pm \$393.85
close \$392.75-393.25 (\$273.25-273.25)
New York (latest): \$393.00
Krugersand (per coin):
\$404.50-406 (\$281.50-282.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$82-93 (\$84-84.75)
*Excludes VAT

Kleinwort finishes in profit despite halfway doubts

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale, one of the City's biggest merchant banks, reported a rise in disclosed profits after tax and transfers to inner reserves from £20m to £21.7m in 1983.

At the halfway stage Kleinwort was predicting lower profits for the year, but it has done better than it expected despite a flat performance from its bullion dealing subsidiary, Sharps, Pile, and higher bad debt provisions. The year's dividends are being increased by 9.1 per cent to 12p.

County Bank, National Westminster's merchant banking subsidiary, also disclosed its 1983 profits yesterday, showing a 10 per cent gain to £11.2m before tax. Total assets increased from £1.3 billion to £1.5 billion.

County Bank has already emerged as a participant in the shake-up under way in the securities industry. It put forward the idea of National Westminster forging a link with stockbroker Bisgood, Bishop, and National Westminster's

expansion into the securities industry will be centred around County Bank, which is already active in international capital markets.

Having acquired market-making skills with Bisgood, Bishop, County Bank's next step will be to strengthen its sales and research capability. However, Mr Charles Villiers, chief executive of County Bank, said no decision had been taken on whether to buy a stockbroker.

Insurance group chairman rejects 'financial supermarket' concept

Willis Faber goes against the trend

By Jeremy Warner

Willis Faber, the insurance broking group, yesterday ruled itself out of the race among City firms for diversification in financial services.

"We do not believe that the interests of shareholders, clients or employees are best served by aiming to become a conglomerate offering a comprehensive range of services as a 'financial supermarket'," said Mr David Palmer, the chairman.

"Such a strategy may be appropriate for services directed towards the individual consumer but we believe our continuing success depends on our ability to provide professional insurance, reinsurance, risk management and underwriting services for corporate clients throughout the world."

Total group pretax profits rose 24 per cent from £30.8m to £38.3m, helped by the strong dollar and the consolidation of Carter, Wilkes & Fane, the reinsurance broker acquired in April 1982. The future is being viewed with "confidence and enthusiasm" and a final dividend of 5p is being recommended, the total for the year by a fifth to 21p.

"We are not seeking an acquisition nor do we wish to diversify," said Mr Palmer. However, the group is seeking

to expand its presence in important overseas markets. "We cannot just sit here in London waiting for business to come to us, in the way we used to."

A question mark hangs over the future of the group's retail business in Britain. It is being watched carefully by senior directors and unless an improvement in materials, the group will be seeking to increase revenue through changing higher commissions or reduce costs by cutting the service to customers.

Suter bids £13.4m in fight for Francis

By Jonathan Clare

Suter, the refrigeration company turned round by Mr David Abell, has finally lost patience with Francis Industries and gone ahead with a contested bid which values the engineering company at £13.4m.

The two sides have been negotiating for a recommended bid since the New Year after Suter's acquisition of a 7 per cent stake in September.

Suter's merchant bank, Robert Fleming, said yesterday that it was still waiting for promised information, including a 1984 profits forecast, from Francis. "We just felt we had been talking for long enough."

Details of an agreed bid had been expected with Suter's results, announced last week, which showed a £2.2m profit against last year's £1.3m loss.

Francis said yesterday that some information had already been passed to Suter and more was due to be made available this week. It says the new information will include the profits forecast "which will demonstrate the inadequacy of Suter's bid."

However, the profits forecast could now be used as part of Francis's defence document rather than being published immediately.

Francis's chairman, Mr D M "Sandy" Saunders said: "I'm quite confident we can persuade them to raise their offer when they see what we can produce in 1984. I will be talking to David Abell within the next few days...it all comes back to price."

Suter's bid values Francis shares at 120p against the market price of 121p with a cash alternative of 115p. The terms are one Suter share and 95p in cash for every two Francis shares.

Francis produces drums, gear-box parts and moulded components for the motor industry.

Destocking hits Tomatin's hopes for recovery

By Jeremy Warner

Tomatin Distillers continued to lose money heavily last year and the recovery in trading fortunes during 1984 which the group expected at the time a £5m rescue package was put together a year ago may be further delayed until 1985.

The Inverness whisky company, which owns Scotland's largest malt distillery, lost £1.5m last year against just over £2m in 1982. This time round there was no cereal refund from the EEC to cushion the impact of the trading losses so the deficit attributable to shareholders was rather higher than in 1982. Attributable losses were £1.5m against £776,000 in 1982.

Mr Anthony de Boer, chairman, said that because whisky exports fell in 1983, the upturn in whisky sales expected in 1984 may be further delayed until the year after.

Tomatin makes most of its whisky for use by other distillers and has been severely affected by industry destocking over the last four years.

The unexpected 9.4 per cent fall in Scotch export sales last year has caused another bout of stock readjustment in the industry further delaying the expected improvement at Tomatin.

Mr Peter Wright, said that as a result of the £3m of rescue finance provided by a consortium last March, the group could weather another year of losses comparable to those of 1983. However, if an upturn failed to materialize in 1985, Tomatin could be in difficulties. The group has once more decided against paying a dividend.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	8 1/2%
Barclays	8 1/2%
BCCI	8 1/2%
Citibank Savings	8 1/2%
Consolidated Credit	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	8 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	8 1/2%
Midland Bank	8 1/2%
Not Westminister	8 1/2%
TSB	8 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	8 1/2%

7 day deposit on terms of under £10,000, 8 1/2%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 9%; £50,000 and over, 9 1/2%.

12 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 9 1/2%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 10%; £50,000 and over, 10 1/2%.

18 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 9 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 10 1/4%; £50,000 and over, 10 3/4%.

24 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 10 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 11%.

36 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 1/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 1/4%; £50,000 and over, 11 3/4%.

48 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

60 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

72 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

84 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

96 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

108 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

120 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

132 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

144 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

156 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

168 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

180 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

192 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

204 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

216 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

228 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

240 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

252 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

264 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

276 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

288 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

300 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

312 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

324 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

336 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

348 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

360 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

372 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

384 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

396 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

408 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

420 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

432 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

444 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

456 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

468 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

480 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

492 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

504 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

516 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

528 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

540 month deposit on terms of under £10,000, 10 3/4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11 3/4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

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Clerical Medical

Life Assurance

Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 1984 Annual General Meeting of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society will be held at the Principal Office of the Society, 15 St James's Square, London SW1A 4LQ, on Wednesday 18 April 1984 at 2.00 pm for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 1983 and the Directors' and Auditors' Reports thereon.
- 2 To re-elect Directors.
- 3 To re-appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
- 4 To transact any other ordinary business of an Annual General Meeting.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society will be held at the same place and on the same date immediately following the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting to receive a Report from the Directors on the results of the financial investigation made into the financial position of the Society as at 31 December 1983, and the extent of the dividend payable in respect of the preceding three years, and to consider and, if thought fit, to pass a resolution to be presented at the Society's Shareholders' Meeting on the following resolutions:

- 1 Membership of the Society
- 2 The Board

Any member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Society. Any member appointing a proxy must deliver to the Principal Office of the Society a duly completed and signed proxy form not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the Meeting.

Principal Office 15 St James's Square, London SW1A 4LQ. 21 March 1984

Economic commentary by Tim Congdon

Lawson's surprise in Annex 4

The details of Mr Lawson's first Budget have been accorded such an enthusiastic reception that an important statement of the Government's future approach to fiscal policy has been little discussed. This neglect is perhaps not surprising because the statement is buried in an obscure part of the Green Paper on *The Next Ten Years: Public Expenditure and Taxation into the 1990s*. It needs to be dug up and examined.

Paragraph 56 projects the ratio of public borrowing to output (PSBR/GDP) in future years and notes that after 1984/85, "net of debt interest, little or no underlying change in the PSBR is assumed." It continues, "on this basis, the tax burden for the non-North Sea sector can be reduced to the extent that public expenditure falls more than North Sea tax revenues as a share of GDP."

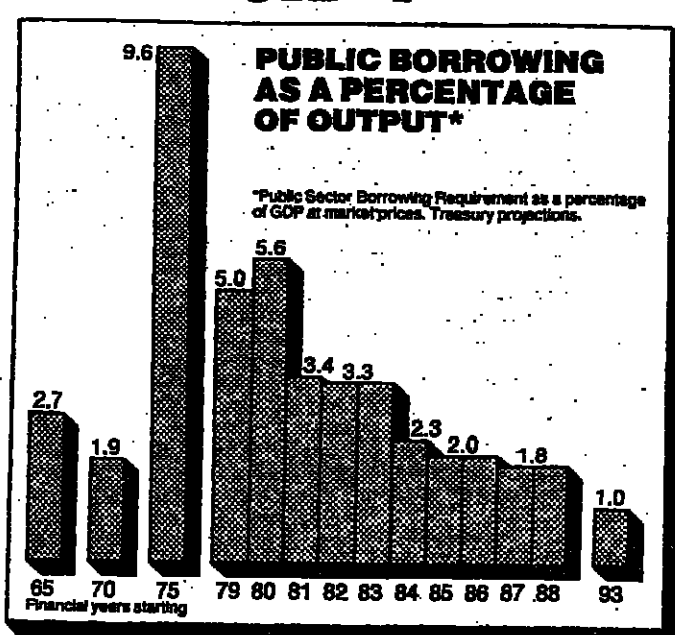
This sounds complicated, but its meaning is clear. The Government does not intend to reduce the PSBR by tax increases.

Furthermore, any success in public expenditure control will lead to tax cuts, not to a fall in the PSBR/GDP ratio. The remarks about debt interest and North Sea revenues confuse the issue a little, but the essential message is unambiguous. The Government regards the difficult and unpopular phase in its budgetary programme as complete. The emphasis in coming years will be on tax cuts and giving incentives to the supply side of the economy instead of reinforced budgetary restraint and inflation control.

In particular, the Government is not planning to have a balanced budget at any stage on any definition of the public sector's financial position. There is a great deal of material in Annex 4 explaining how, if everything works out all right with the PSBR, inflation and interest rates, the ratio of debt interest to GDP will decline over the next decade. This decline, rather than restraint over public expenditure, may allow the PSBR/GDP ratio to drop to 1 per cent by 1993/94. Since the London Business School has argued that a 1 per cent figure is the maximum consistent with long-run price stability, the Government can claim to have at least thought about a strategy for eliminating inflation.

As a strategy, it is clever, theoretical and unconvincing. The decline in the debt interest/GDP ratio rests on assumptions about real interest rates coming down to "more normal levels" as inflation falls. This is just wishful guesswork. More fundamentally, why has the analysis been relegated to Annex 4 of the Green Paper? Mr Lawson is well aware that few people read the Budget documents in full.

Perhaps it is the very seclusion and complexity of the work on long-run fiscal policy which give the answer to these questions. Mr Lawson's medium-term financial strategy (MTFS), as set out in the *Financial Statement and Budget Report*, envisages a more or less stable inflation rate and PSBR/GDP ratio between



1984/85 and 1988/89. But Annex 4 of the Green Paper makes conjectures about a PSBR/GDP ratio of only 1 per cent and further reductions in inflation in the early 1990s. There seems to be a break about 1988, probably the year of the next general election.

The conclusion must be that political decision has been taken to consolidate on the financial front for the next four years and resume the anti-inflation programme in earnest after that, if the Government has the chance. Mr Lawson's rhetoric about sound finance, honest money and stable process was a smokescreen behind which the Government has changed course or, at least, embarked on a diversion which will lengthen the journey to its ultimate destination.

There are some obvious political motives for this shift. The first is to neutralize opposition from the "wets" within the Conservative Party. Less subtle is the impact the new fiscal principles will have on bargaining between Treasury ministers and their colleagues in spending ministries. If the Chancellor's goal had been to cut the PSBR/GDP ratio further, he could not necessarily have given spending ministers the bait of tax cuts in return for tight expenditure control. But now he can dangle that bait in front of them.

The final motive for consolidation on financial control is that public opinion is not prepared for a determined drive towards stable prices. Inflation has been a constant feature of British society for almost forty years and many people seem to regard its side-effects, such as rising house prices and the erosion of the real value of their debts with considerable affection. The Government may find that support for price stability becomes more genuine and substantial only when other countries, such as Japan and West Germany, have already attained it.

So Mr Lawson wants to be known as a tax-cutting, tax-reforming, incentive-promoting Chancellor who respects, but does not advance the sound money cause. The Green Paper shows, perhaps contrary to its

Allied Plant Group names chairman

Allied Plant Group: Mr Martyn Rose has been appointed chairman and continues as chief executive. Baisrow Eves: Mr John Taylor Williams has been made an executive director. Lloyds Bank International: Mr G. D. Hamilton has been appointed manager, Alexandria branch after the retirement of Mr R. McWatt. Mr K.

APPOINTMENTS

E. Hughes has become manager, Zamelek branch, Cairo, where he was previously assistant manager, business development, South Asia. Mr J. Egglestone has been appointed representative for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, based in New Delhi. Far East - Mr D. J. Hutchinson has been

made manager, Manila branch in the Philippines. Mr J. R. Frew, previously manager, Manila branch, has been made manager at Seoul branch in South Korea. Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering: Mr M. B. Page has been appointed to the board as managing director. Finney Bowes: Mr B. M. Baxendale has joined the board.

Essex Water Company

Chairman's Statement to the Annual General Meeting on 20th March, 1984

Annual Accounts and Charges
During the year the Company redeemed £6,000,000 of preference and debenture stocks. No issues were made during this period.

The continuing emphasis that the Company is giving to controlling its costs means that the principal rates and charges for the year starting on 1st April, 1984 will be held at current levels. This is the second year running that the principal charges have been held steady, despite a background of increases in costs generally. Considerable thanks must be accorded to all grades of staff for their determination and perseverance in bringing about these economies.

Softening

The Company's application to the Department of the Environment to reduce the softening requirements at its Langford and Hanningfield Works has now been approved following the results of a Public Inquiry in October, 1982, and, as a consequence of special parliamentary procedure, a subsequent hearing before a joint committee of Parliament. Reduction in the level of softening started on 1st February, 1984, and the resulting savings in chemical costs have contributed to the decision not to raise rates and charges on 1st April, 1984.

Consumption Trends

The quantities of water supplied to all customers during 1983 rose by about 2%, although the overall increase hides a fall of nearly 2% in metered demand. The level of consumption was undoubtedly affected by the prolonged dry spell during the summer, which was also responsible for a new record daily peak of consumption of 113.1 million gallons, more than 8% higher than the previous daily peak.

Major Capital Projects

Additions to fixed assets during the year amounted to some £4.2m. The additional rapid filters at Hanningfield which have been under construction for over two years, are now in operation. This additional treatment capacity has enabled the Company to announce closure during 1984 of the small treatment works at Sandford Mill.

The future plans for capital expenditure are concerned with strengthening the distribution system by the laying of new mains, additional primary filtration and standby generators. In addition the Company is planning on increasing the level of automation at its major works so as to take advantage of the consequential reduction in operating costs.

Computer Systems

During the last two years, the Company has been developing, jointly with International Computers Limited, a real-time computerised system for the billing and collection of water rates and charges. The system was brought fully into operation by the Company during the year. Three other water companies have subsequently successfully implemented major parts of the system and several other water companies have indicated interest. In addition the system has been taken by the Thames Water Authority. It is anticipated that other water undertakers, both at home and abroad, will make use of the system.

The Company has continued to provide a computer service to Tending Hundred Waterworks Company and to West Kent Water Company. It also bills and collects the appropriate charges of the Regional Authorities in the Company's statutory area, jointly with several other water companies it is developing a financial database system.

Overseas Involvement

The Company made a start, albeit modest, in overseas involvement, a member of staff being temporarily seconded to a firm of consulting engineers, working in South Korea for an initial three months' term. Previously the Company's involvement has been restricted to providing training within the Company, of overseas personnel.

National Water Council

During last year the Government abolished the National Water Council, a body which had various responsibilities including the conducting of wage negotiations for the industry. One of the consequences of the abolition of the National Water Council is that more matters will now be dealt with at a local level, leaving only major items for national level. It is too early to comment on the overall effects of the abolition.

Consumer Relations

The Company has opted to be a party to the appropriate Authorities' Consumer Consultative Committees set up under the 1983 Water Act, but it is early days to comment on their impact.

Directors and Staff

During the early part of 1983, the water industry suffered its first major strike of manual workers. The Company, however, was able to maintain supplies during the five weeks of the strike to all but a very small percentage of its consumers. Our thanks must go to all those members of staff who enabled the Company to carry on during this period, and indeed the rest of the year.

After 37 years in the water industry, I have decided that a younger man should take over the Chairmanship of this Company. I therefore intend to retire at the end of the present month. My fellow Directors have decided that Admiral Sir Andrew Lewis, K.C.B., should succeed me. I would like to thank personally my fellow Directors and members of the staff who have assisted me over the years.

P. E. BRASSEY, Chairman
Romford, 21st February, 1984.



Rentokil

Preliminary Announcement

	1983	1982
Group turnover:	£500	£500
Group profit before tax:	125,067	111,860
Group profit after tax and minorities:	20,558	17,107
Earnings per share:	11,241	8,492
Dividends: Interim paid November, 1983 (6.75% with tax credit of 2.893%)	5.87p	4.45p
Final proposed payable 9th May 1984 (11.75% with tax credit of 5.036%)	9.643%	8.571%
	16.786%	14.643%

There is an extraordinary deferred tax charge of £2,420,000 arising on the change in the system of capital allowances proposed in the 1984 Budget.

- International growth and progress will continue.
- The Board expects a further healthy increase in group profits.

Rentokil Group PLC

Another Bibby bonanza!

Bibby has a record year
MORE record profits, higher dividends, another five share price rises, and talk of waterfalls this year.

Bibby is bouncing with health
LESLIE Young's annual food-to-industrial group, Bibby is bouncing with health and this year's full-year figures show a jump from £12.6m to £14.5m profit. However, the share price has risen 25%.

More to go for in Bibby
American is coming to the fore in Bibby's new ventures. The company is now looking for a takeover target in the US.

Bringing in Bibby dividend harvest
The company's dividend has risen 25% in the last year, and is expected to rise again this year.

With Bibby there's no need to read between the headlines.

They say good results speak for themselves - and those from Bibby have a very clear message. Success. Last year, as the press comment shows, we proved we didn't have to wait for the recovery to produce profits.

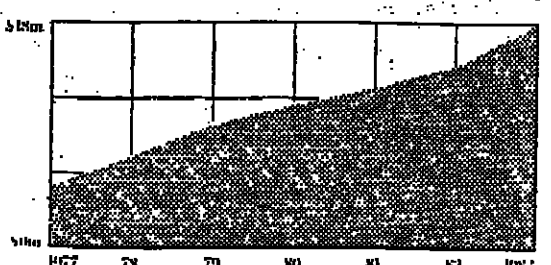
This year, again, we're showing that our interests in industry and agriculture have combined to produce highly successful results. Even in a time when the trading climate was less than easy.

In 1983 we achieved profits of £18,458,000, a healthy 23% increase on last year's success. That's the eighth year in succession we've set a new record.

Sales rose to a new high level of £279.2 million - 13.7% more than last year. Now, for our shareholders, we're proposing a new higher final dividend of 3.6p per Ordinary Share - taking the total for the year to 5.84p - up 25%. And in addition for the third year running there's another free bonus issue of shares - again one Ordinary share for every two Ordinary Shares currently held.

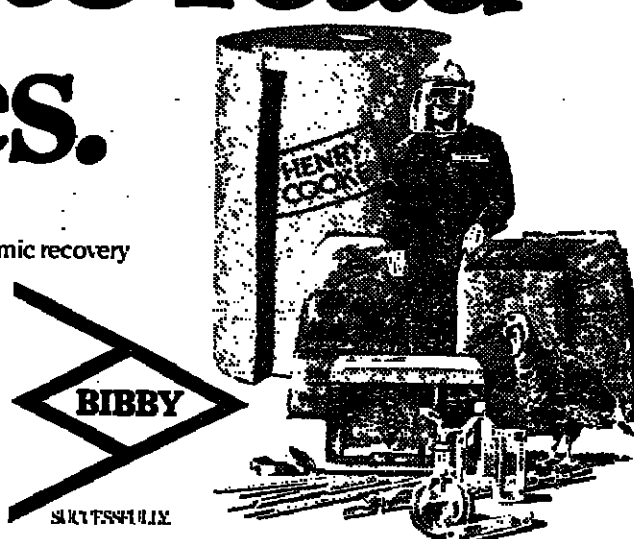
We've been looking to the future too - and taking important steps in restructuring our trading activities. So the successful completion of the sale of our Edible Oils division followed by the acquisition of two Scottish animal feed businesses, were important in

marking 1983 as a year of real progress. For 1984, the markets in which we operate will remain competitive. But we believe that we are ready.



to take full advantage of the economic recovery that is now underway. In fact, we'd even say that, unforeseen circumstances apart, we're confident that the breadth of our businesses will again produce satisfactory growth. Which leaves very little to read between the lines.

INDUSTRY MEETS AGRICULTURE. SURVIVES SUCCESSFULLY.
For your copy of the 1983 Report & Accounts, write to The Secretary, Bibby & Sons PLC, Richmond House, Rumford Place, Liverpool L3 9QQ.



Smith and Nephew profits soar

Smith and Nephew's profits continue to surge, rising from £34.4m to £44.6m pretax on sales up 15 per cent to £313m, for the 12 months ending last December.

The group, known for its Nivea and Elastoplast products, has raised the dividend by 9 per cent to 4.5p with a 3.1p final and proposes a one-for-five scrip issue.

A geographical breakdown of results shows that Britain remains Smith's largest profit earner, but significant progress was made in Europe where profits almost doubled to £4.5m.

The board expects a significant improvement in profits for the opening three months of this year, on the same period last year, with net borrowings down by 28 per cent to £25.8m last year, representing 18 per cent of shareholders funds.

In brief

● **JOHN MAUNDERS CONSTRUCTION:** Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Turnover £6.3m (£4.1m). Pretax profits jumped from £274,000 to £170,000. The interim dividend is being boosted from 0.7p to 2p net a share and the board hopes to recommend a final of at least 4p (making a total of 6.7p) compared with 3.5p indicated last year.

● **RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY:** Turnover for half-year to Oct 31, 1983, £4.47m (£1.87m). Pretax profit £753,000 (£208,000).

● **CHAMBERLAIN PHIPPS** has conditionally agreed to buy 42 per cent of the capital of Tanner Chemical of the US for \$5.54m (£3.85m).

● **STAG FURNITURE HOLDINGS:** In 1983, turnover rose from £31.64m to £36.94m.

Shares of J. Bibby & Sons, the foods-to-hospital products concern, bounced 15p to 410p yesterday as the group reported a 21 per cent rise in pretax profits, lifted the total dividend by a quarter and proposed a one-for-two scrip issue.

On a 15 per cent rise in sales to £279m, Bibby's pretax profits were £18.45m against £15m last time. The dividend is 5.8p against 4.67p with a final of 3.6p.

The figures come on the back of a bullish view of the immediate future from Mr Leslie Young, Bibby's chair-

man, who says there are now clear indications of recovery and healthy growth in Britain and the United States and a consequent restoration of business confidence.

The company's industrial operations, except for edible oils, achieved very significant increases in trading surpluses. Its agricultural interests earned a similar trading surplus to that of the previous year, though the benefit of further record earnings in the feeds and seeds division was offset by disappointing results from the farm products.

while pretax profits jumped from £1m to £1.9m, total dividend 5.25p (5p).

● **MATTHEW CLARK AND SONS (HOLDINGS):** For the eight months to Dec 31, 1983, pretax profit rose from £2.7m to £3.9m. Turnover £60.02m (£51.96m), excluding customs and excise duty of £25.13m (£22.13m). Interim payment 4p (3p) a share.

● **SALSBURY OFFER:** Subscription lists open tomorrow for the offer for subscription by London Venture Capital Market of six million ordinary 1p shares in Salsbury Locks at 6.5p a share. A market in the shares will be made on an over-the-counter basis.

● **BODDINGTONS BREWERIES:** In 1983, pretax profits rose by 5.6 per cent to £9.09m. Turnover rose from £44.47m to £47.7m. Total dividend 2.64p a share (2.4p, adjusted, last time).

● **PITTARD GROUP:** Last year, this leather manufacturing group managed to turn a pretax loss of £336,000 into a pretax profit of £1.2m. Turnover expanded from £20.39m to £25.2m. Exports: £9.52m (£9.02m).

● **LAING PROPERTIES:** Pretax profit for 1983 £11.1m (£9.7m). Total dividend up from 5p to 5.5p a share.

● **MEMEC (MEMORY AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS):** Last year, pretax profits rose from £1.96m to £2.8m on turnover up from £12.22m to £18m. The total net dividend is being raised from 1.65p (adjusted) to 1.95p (adjusted).

● **COMBEN GROUP** (estate developer and house-builder): In 1983, pretax profits rose from £3.1m to £5.01m on turnover up from £59.57m to £81.78m. Total dividend 2.65p net, compared with 2.55p on old capital.

● **CPU COMPUTERS** (quoted on the USM): Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Turnover £10.3m (£6.85m). Pretax profit £806,000 (£524,000). Interim payment, 0.5p net a share. Single payment of 0.35p for previous year.

● **LOGICA:** Half-year to Dec 31, 1983. Pretax profit £1.81m (£1m). Interim payment of 0.35p net a share. (Company came to the market last year.) Board reports that in the latest half-year all four aspects of Logica's business progressed

strongly. Consultancy was at record levels. Orders are at a peak and the board is confident that the high degree of activity in the first half will continue for the rest of the year.

● **WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS):** For the second year running, this company is making a one-for-five scrip issue. Turnover for 1983 up from £21.01m to £22.47m. Pretax profit £2.09m (£1.81m). Total dividend, net, 6.25p a share, against the equivalent of 5.2p last time.

● **LUCAS INDUSTRIES** is selling its 30 per cent stake in Girick, Australia, for cash. Girick makes automotive components. The purchase price for the Lucas holding is \$44.7m (about £3m).

● **OFFER OVERSUBSCRIBED:** Application list for the offer for sale of shares in Charterhouse Japhet Rothschild Pacific Investment Trust closed on Tuesday, substantially over-subscribed.

● **ENGLAND PROPERTIES:** Turnover for 1983: £2.94m (£3.17m). Pretax profit £504,000 (£439,000). Dividend, 1p a share, against nil.

● **ROYDS ADVERTISING GROUP** (a member of the Eitel Group): Royds is negotiating the acquisition of the independent agency, Toon & Heath, with offices in Solihull and Stoke-on-Trent. Toon is intended to be merged with Royds Advertising & Marketing, the Birmingham agency of the Eitel Group.

● **AMAX:** Amax Coal Company and Petrofina, the international oil company, yesterday signed an agreement creating a joint venture between the two firms under the name of Finamax Coal company.

● **NORTON OPAX:** The company yesterday completed the acquisition of Percy Lund, Humphries and Co of Bradford.

Paterson's half-year results improve

By Jonathan Clare

Paterson Zochonis, the international trader with big Nigerian interests, expects better half-year profits after turning in the promised half-year improvement.

Yesterday's half-year results show profits up from £12.9m to £14.2m, with strong performance from the Nigerian associates despite import controls and foreign exchange restrictions. The interim dividend has been increased from 1.35p to 1.45p.

Six months ago, soon after the Nigerian elections the company was pinning much on political stability. The subsequent military coup has again brought about political turmoil.

Nigeria is also negotiating a refinancing deal which would help it to pay its import bill. Paterson's liquidity would benefit from such a deal, but the company is also vulnerable to currency movements if exchange rates are adjusted.

Paterson's main businesses include soaps, detergents, edible oils and refrigerators, and it operates manufacturing plant in Nigeria.

Turnover in the first half was from £138.5 to £123.6m. Investment income was largely unchanged at £3.4m. Exchanges losses were £347,000 against a profit of £469,000. Interest payable was up by £1.2m to £5.1m.

Earnings per share have increased from 13.9p to 14.05p. Paterson has diversified away from its traditional merchandising and trading business in Nigeria, and now has two manufacturing businesses in the country.

CRICKET

Good bowling by England could save the series

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Lahore



Foster (left) and Cowans eager to get their hands on new ball

England set themselves a task in the third Test match here yesterday and discharged it so successfully that the series could yet be saved. Their aim was to bowl with the strictest economy and to await the batsmen's mistakes - and when their bowlers got stuck the batsmen duly obliged. By close of play Pakistan were 173 for six in reply to England's first innings total of 241, and there are still three days to go.

While the ball was still hard and new Cowans and Foster were eager to lay their hands on it. They quickly reduced Pakistan to 13 for two, which would have been 23 for three had Salim been caught at first slip off Cowans, as he well could have been. There followed three attritional hours while Omar and Salim sought the initiative and England held to their plan. Cook kept one end pretty well closed up; the ground fielding was excellent, with Fowler chasing about like a hare, and after tea, by when Marks had taken a useful wicket, Cowans and Foster came back to take advantage of the local temperature, which is nothing if not mercenary.

England had one great and two lesser slices of luck. What made all the difference to their day was that Zaheer, after damaging a leg on Monday, was able to bat only with a runner. He came hobbling in at number seven. This left Pakistan's innings in mostly inexperienced hands. Then, when Omar and Rameez were playing well, they both fell to short balls which they should have hit for four.

As a result of it, we are left with an interesting match, wholly undisturbed thus far by its batting, yet with a real prospect of a finish.

The first three or four overs of Pakistan's innings echoed with appeals for leg before. Broadly speaking, those that most looked out were given in and those that looked most in were given out. Hanif's son, Shoaib, moves into his stumps when playing back. He is a wristy, nippy little fellow and a real scamper between the wickets. Zaheer could have had no hesitation in bringing him later in as his runner, Foster in his first over had to be placated, as well, I hope, as admonished, by Gower, when he had his first appeal against Shoaib turned down. His next, less full-throated, against Mohsin, was upheld.

With Cowans it was the other way round - a resounding appeal against Mohsin rejected, before his next, against Shoaib, was endorsed. Both batsmen were relying on their eye to flick

of them in succession, Cook had three fielders close up on the off side, as well as a close short leg. It was a field which demanded accuracy and got it. I would have preferred if he had dropped certainly one of those off side merchants back into the covers and thrown the ball up rather more, but he did very well the job that was asked of him. Silly mid-off, no more than four yards from the bat, is no place for a captain to field, as Gower did to Cook, for long periods at a time. It is difficult from there to see the wood from the trees. To be fair to him, though, Gower had another excellent day in charge.

For ninety minutes after lunch Omar and Salim were either pushing forward to Cook, hitting Foster hard but straight to the fielders or treating Marks with respect. Eventually, they got badly bogged down. Twenty seven afternoon overs had yielded only 37 runs when Marks, in his sixth over, bowled Salim as he tried to rum him down to third man. Two straight drives by Omar, played from down the pitch off Cook, and a forceful four by Rameez - the first attacking strokes for an hour or more, took Pakistan to 115 for three at tea.

Half an hour afterwards Omar skied Foster into the covers, a short off-side ball which he aimed to slash for four. This brought the brothers Raja together, but not for long. Rameez, still only 21, is another of those natural stroke-makers with which Pakistan abounds. I found his innings enchanting: such talent, such confidence, but oh dear, such rashness. At 151 he was fifth out, hooking a bouncer - long hop straight to square leg. In the forty minutes that were left Wasim went, too, caught in the gully off a ball which Cowans got to lift, if not quite to fly. Between a quarter past two, when Salim was out, and half past four, when stumps were drawn, Pakistan had lost their way.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First Innings	
C L Smith, c Salim, b Sarfaraz	18
M W Goring, b-w, b Sarfaraz	6
D J Gower, c Delpat, b Mohsin Kamal	9
A J Lamb, c Rameez, b Daud	14
D W Randall, c Salim, b Daud	14
G Fowler, c Daud, b Daud	58
V A Marks, b Mohsin Kamal, b Daud	74
16 W Taylor, b-w, b Sarfaraz	1
N A Foster, b-w, b Daud	6
N G Cook, c Delpat, b Sarfaraz	1
N G Cowans, not out	28
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 1, nb 0)	10
Total	241

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-20, 3-47, 4-77, 5-83, 6-202, 7-208, 8-209, 9-227, 10-241.

PAKISTAN: First Innings	
Mohsin Kamal b-w, b Sarfaraz	1
Shoaib Muhammad b-w, b Cowans	7
Omar Khan, c Fowler, b Foster	23
Salim Khan, c Marks, b Daud	28
Rameez Raja, c Smith, b Foster	72
Wasim Raja, c Gower, b Cowans	12
Zaheer Abbas, not out	2
Abdul Qadir, not out	2
Extras (b 1)	1
Total (8 wickets)	173

Sarfaraz, Mohsin, Amir Delpat and Mohsin Kamal to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-13, 3-28, 4-138, 5-151, 6-168.

BOWLING: Sarfaraz 22.5-5-43-4; Mohsin Kamal 15-5-66-1; Daud, 30-7-84-3; Wasim, 11-4-18-0.

PAKISTAN: 2nd Innings

1-5, 2-20, 3-47, 4-77, 5-83, 6-202, 7-208, 8-209, 9-227, 10-241.

BOWLING: Goring 30-13-58-3; Daud 29-8-78-4; Cowans 22-3-79-1; Book 42-16-58-0; Cook 4-3-4-0.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 198

1-5, 2-20, 3-47, 4-77, 5-83, 6-202, 7-208, 8-209, 9-227, 10-241.

BOWLING: Goring 30-13-58-3; Daud 29-8-78-4; Cowans 22-3-79-1; Book 42-16-58-0; Cook 4-3-4-0.

Yorkshire make changes on sub-committees

Norman Shuttleworth has lost his seat on the committee of Yorkshire County Cricket Club Joe Lister, secretary, announces this yesterday after new sub-committees had been formed, saying that the club would no longer be appointing a member to the board of the Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic club, who are the owners of Headingley.

This means that Mr Shuttleworth, the member appointed by the Leeds club to Yorkshire, will no longer be a member of the general committee.

David Welch, who resigned said that "he was out of sympathy with the aims and objectives of the majority of the general committee" and was dismayed at the conduct of a caucus in the general committee.

CRICKET: SUB-COMMITTEE: D B Close (chairman) and Messrs P J Sharpe, J Solari, A Vinn, A Woodhouse, R H Charles (chairman), J A G Gower, R S Hinton, J F Topley, B Walsh.

RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE: S Fielden (chairman), R A Agnew, G Boycott, A A Best, P Farnham, W G Scott, G G Doolittle (chairman), P Aldridge, G Clegg, G T Jarvis, A F Ransford, T Poun.

Exciting end in prospect after Sri Lanka declare

Colombo - The second Test match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand seems set for an exciting finish today after the Sri Lankans continued their fightback on the fourth day here yesterday. They declared their second innings at 289 for nine to set New Zealand 366 to win. At the close of play they were six for no wicket.

Sri Lanka resumed after the rest day at 133 for two and Dias was again in good form, going on to complete his second century in seven Tests and first by a Sri Lankan at home. He had hit 18 fours in his 108 when he was bowled by Cairns. Dias and Wettimuny, who scored a determined 65 in 325 minutes, carried their third wicket stand to 163, a Sri Lankan Test record.

Wettimuny retired hurt before lunch after being hit in the groin by a ball from Hadlee. He resumed at five past the sixth wicket but was dismissed without adding to his score as three wickets fell for 11 runs after the interval.

SRI LANKA: First Innings 174 (B L Cairns 4 for 47)

Second Innings	
S Wettimuny c Hadlee b Doolittle	65
E R N S Fernando c J J Gower b Hadlee	0
S M S Kaluperuma c Wright b Hadlee	108
S L Dias b Cairns	12
J R Ranasinghe c and b Hadlee	12
A R D Mendis b Doolittle	26
S S Madushanka c J J Gower b Doolittle	7
A Ranasinghe run out	2
D G de Silva not out	2
D R G de Silva not out	2
V B John not out	3
Extras (b 4, lb 0, w 1)	5
Total (10 wickets)	289

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-13, 3-78, 4-208, 5-247, 6-247, 7-248, 8-278, 9-289.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 198	
J J Gower 56, J R Ranasinghe 5 for 47	

CRICKET: SUB-COMMITTEE: D B Close (chairman) and Messrs P J Sharpe, J Solari, A Vinn, A Woodhouse, R H Charles (chairman), J A G Gower, R S Hinton, J F Topley, B Walsh.

RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE: S Fielden (chairman), R A Agnew, G Boycott, A A Best, P Farnham, W G Scott, G G Doolittle (chairman), P Aldridge, G Clegg, G T Jarvis, A F Ransford, T Poun.

BOXING

Nelson is only one leg of Quarless double

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Noel Quarless, the lively Liverpool heavyweight, who has been kicking his heels around for four months, aims to make up for lost time and money now he has the manager of the six world title holders, Chris Moorcroft, and can carry on boxing.

Following in the footsteps of Trevor Berbick, who captivated the Wembley crowd with a world-class performance, Quarless has hopes in the space of three weeks to dispose of two of Berbick's former opponents, Conroy Nelson, of Ottawa, and Mark Lee, of Carson City, Nevada, in a more impressive manner than the Canadian. Quarless takes on Nelson tonight at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel and Lee at the Mike Barrett's Albert Hall promotion on April 1.

Quarless had once said that he would never box for Barrett but has decided to honour the contract for two bouts that his former manager, Nat Basso, signed him up for. Quarless's new manager, Moorcroft, said yesterday: "It is better to make money than money than spend it fighting in court." The Liverpool boxer's second opponent with Barrett on May 13 could be the man Funsu Banjo beat at Wembley, Billy Thomas, of United States. "After that it will be six or seven fights by the end of the year for Frank Warren", Moorcroft said.

In spite of being out of the ring for so long Moorcroft says the big lad in his top shape. "Because he's been training for all those fights that did not come off. He's been in the gym yesterday." Quarless has come down from 16st 10lb to 15st 7lb or so, "to keep his speed."

Moorcroft realizes that Nelson has come here to fight. That's how we like them," he said. "We don't want opponents like Bruno's been



Nelson: good right hand

fighting - I don't want to take anything away from Bruno because he's been doing a good job, but Noel is going to know he is better because he beats better men."

Nelson is extremely fit, as he must be to be a world-ranked kick boxer and is supposed to have a good right hand. But Moorcroft believes that Quarless will "take him out. As soon as he gets the opening, he will throw the big shot. He may have to wait till the tenth round. That's all right."

Another exciting boxer, Roy Gumbs, the former British and Commonwealth middleweight champion, returns after a back operation to share joint top billing. He faces a talented boxer in Lindell Holmes, from Detroit. Holmes used to box for Kronk gym but Gumbs says he is ready for anyone.

The American should test the Tottenham boxer, for he gave the world-rated middleweight, Dwight Davis, a rough time in Las Vegas the day Colin Jones was challenging Milton McCrory the second time Holmes flaked out in the 115-degree heat. This time it could be the Cumbria test book that could see him off.

SKIING

First place all the way for Zurbriggen

Oppdal, Norway - Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, who has already assured of the overall World Cup title, recorded his second super giant slalom victory of the season here yesterday.

Zurbriggen raced down the 47-gate course in 1min 24.30 sec, finishing more than two seconds ahead of Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg. He was at a great advantage starting first, and the weather was responsible for the times becoming slower.

"I was lucky to be able to go first," Zurbriggen said. He still needs to win in Oslo on Friday, to take the World Cup giant slalom championship.

● ZWITSELI, West Germany: Hanni Wenzel, of Liechtenstein, threw the women's World Cup yesterday's slalom, Miss Wenzel, winner in 1978 and 1980, was second fastest after the first run behind Annal Kronbichler of Austria.

MEN'S SUPER GIANT SLALOM (Course 1, P Zurbriggen (Switz) 1min 24.30sec, 2 M Girardelli (Lux) 1:26.59, 3 J P Ruedi (Swe) 1:28.00, 4 H Enn (Aust) 1:28.02, 5 M Wenzel (Ger) 1:28.48, 6 G Girardelli (Aust) 1:28.51, 7 J Bourgeois (Swe) 1:29.78, 8 A Gung (N) and M Krenn (Aust) 1:29.88, 9 F Kerschbaum (N) 1:27.07, 10 M Joller (Switz) 1:27.08. World Cup overall: 1 Zurbriggen (Switz), 2 J Ruedi (Swe), 3 Girardelli (Lux), 4 Wenzel (Ger), 5 A Salner (Aust), 145, 6 F Honegger (Switz), 125.

WOMEN'S SLALOM (Course 1, H Wenzel (Liech) 1min 21.77sec, 2 T Wettimuny (US) 1:21.58, 3 P Pelen (FR) 1:21.58, 4 B Gubert (Switz) 1:23.17, 5 D Taba (Pol) 1:23.22, 6 H Wenzel (Ger) 1:23.22, 7 J Bourgeois (Swe) 1:23.22, 8 A Gung (N) and M Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 9 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 10 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 11 D Gung (N) and M Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 12 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 13 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 14 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 15 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 16 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 17 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 18 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 19 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 20 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 21 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 22 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 23 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 24 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 25 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 26 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 27 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 28 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 29 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 30 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 31 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 32 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 33 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 34 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 35 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 36 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 37 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 38 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 39 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 40 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 41 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 42 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 43 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 44 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 45 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 46 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 47 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 48 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 49 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 50 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 51 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 52 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 53 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 54 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 55 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 56 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 57 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 58 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 59 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 60 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 61 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 62 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 63 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 64 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 65 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 66 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 67 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 68 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 69 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 70 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 71 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 72 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 73 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 74 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 75 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 76 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 77 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 78 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 79 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 80 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 81 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 82 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 83 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 84 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 85 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 86 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 87 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 88 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 89 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 90 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 91 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 92 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 93 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 94 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 95 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 96 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 97 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 98 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 99 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 100 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 101 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 102 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 103 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 104 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 105 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 106 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 107 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 108 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 109 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 110 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 111 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 112 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 113 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 114 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 115 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 116 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 117 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 118 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 119 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 120 M Joller (Switz) 1:23.22, 121 A Krenn (Aust) 1:23.22, 122 M Joller (Switz) 1

A flying start for jet-lagged McLean

	Depth (m)	State of Pond	Weather °C
Berjach	120	Old	17.9
Kremsdörfen	50	Old	17.9
Wersdorf	55	Old	

Crust Fair Föhn 7

Spring	Fair	Fine	3
Varied	Fair	Fine	4
Varied	Fair	Fine	5
Crust	Good	Cloud	6
Varied	Good	Fine	9

1,500 metres

representatives of the Ski Club of Great upper slopes. The following report

	Depth (m)	State of Ice	Weather °C
Overtop	- 120	Old	- 1.1
Overstaken	- 50	Old	- 1.1
Overstaken	- 50	Old	- 1.1

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Ref: 196/SE/84

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South of the Thames

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
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

- 6.30 Cereals AM.**
- 6.30 Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Fern Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hour; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 8.55; review of the morning papers at 7.15 and 8.15; Mike Smith with the new Top Twenty between 7.25 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.30.
- 9.00 Bellamy on Botany.** In part five of his series professor Bellamy picks an oak tree (r). 5.25 Cereals. 10.30 Play School presented by Brian Jameson (r). 10.55 Charter. Magazine programme of interest to Asian women. This morning representatives of the Pakistan Women's Association talk about the activities of their organization. 11.20 Cereals.
- 12.30 News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. 1.45 Book (r).
- 2.00 Caught in Time.** James Cameron introduces a pre-war film, made by Nottingham. Factory owner of holidays in Skipton and workers on the shop floor (r). 2.25 Film: *Holiday Affair* (1949) starring Robert Mitchum. Who will warlock Connie Wed? Respectable Carl or Steve the drifter? With Janet Leigh and Wendell Corey. Directed by Don Hartman. 3.45 News headlines.
- 3.50 Magic Roundabout** (r). 3.55 Play School, presented by Anne Aschcroft. 4.20 The New Adventures of Elmo. 4.25 Jackaroo. 4.30 Rentaghost (r). 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Moonlight. Episode five of the six-part smuggling yarn (Cereals titles page 170).
- 5.40 Six Minutes** includes news from Michael Ondaatje at 5.40; and a profile of Betty Calverley, Torville and Dean's coach.
- 6.40 Harty.** Russell's guests include the founder of the modern hospice, Dame Cicely Saunders.
- 7.10 Medical Express** includes arguments for making the wearing of back seatbelts law and a step-by-step guide on how to persuade a health authority to re-distribute its budget.
- 7.40 The Day of the Triffids.** Part three and Bill and Jo face threats from a panic-stricken public and rampaging plants (r).
- 8.10 Fame.** The staff of the drama school are concerned over the blossoming of Bruno's affair with student-teacher, Lisa.
- 9.00 A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 9.05 News** with Sue Lawley.
- 9.30 The Other Half.** The final programme of the series featuring Victor Lowmyer and Marilyn Cole (see Choice).
- 10.00 Sportnight** introduced by Barry Carpenter. There is a preview of the World Figure Skating Championships; and examination of the Italian football scene; and highlights of the final day of play in the World Test Match between Pakistan and England in Lahore.
- 10.55 Ballroom Champions.** Highlights of the United Kingdom Ballroom Championships introduced by Ray Moore from the Hammersmith Palais.
- 11.45 News** headlines and weather.

TV-am

- 6.30 Good Morning Britain** presented by Nick Owen and John Stapleton. News with Gordon Homeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 7.30; exercises at 8.50 and 8.15; the day's odd anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.40, 8.45 and 9.15; pop video at 7.55; magic moments at 8.10; Eve Polgar's gospel column at 8.35.

ITV LONDON

- 9.25 Thames news headlines** 9.30 For School: The changes in children's magazines 9.47. Alerting children to dangers 10.04 A farm in the spring 10.21 Falkland Isles 10.48 History: Mary's Coronation 11.10 The art of the glassblower 11.22 Maths: number, shape and measurement 11.39 How we used to live: the death of King George 12.00 Flicks: Christopher Lillicrap and the story of The Three Robbers 12.10 Sounds Like a Story: Mark Wynter and the tale of The Three Wishes (r) 12.30 Three Little Words Quiz game for married couples.
- 1.00 News** 1.20 Thames news 1.30 Plus: Jacky Avila talks to Dr David Haslam, an expert on how to cope with sleepless children. 2.00 Crown Court. The case continues of the man accused of deliberately hitting his ex-lover with his car. 2.30 A Country Practice. Australian drama series about a medical practice in the outback. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.00 Flicks: A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 Baffled. 4.20 Luna. Science fiction adventure serial 4.50 Jingles starring Michael Ondaatje with Fun Boy Three and Gasman (r). 5.15 Family Trees.
- 5.45 News** 5.50 Thames news.
- 6.25 Help!** Vic Taylor goes with the School of Training Workshops.
- 6.35 Crossroads.** A natural antipathy grows between Joe MacDonald and Colin Sands.
- 7.00 The Country Diary** of an Edwardian Lady. Episode five. Mary Edith's brothers' dislike of each other becomes public knowledge (Oracle titles page 170).
- 7.30 Coronation Street.** Mavis Riley catches 'flu' and is caught in an embarrassing situation (Oracle titles page 170).
- 8.00 This is Your Life.** Someone, somewhere, is going to get his or her right of a lifetime when ambushed by Eamonn Andrews armed with his big red book.
- 8.30 Fresh Fields.** Delightful comedy series starring Arton Rodgers and Julia McKenzie as the middle-aged couple now gratefully rid of parental responsibility (Oracle titles page 170).
- 9.00 Murder: A Well-Fashioned Fit-Up.** Terry's the bouncer on a pub's opening night as Arthur has to guard a friend's rag trade store (Oracle title page 170).
- 10.00 A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
- 10.05 News**
- 10.35 Midweek Sports Special** includes a preview of the World Figure Skating Championships; highlights from one of tonight's European football competition matches; and boxing from the Birmosport Crest Hotel.
- 12.15 Night Thoughts** from Tom Clutwynd.

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University: Strawberry Hill** 6.30 Graduates Press Conference 1984 6.55 Pelican Crossings 7.30 Interpreting a Dream 7.45 Industrial Relations. Ends at 8.10
- 8.00 Cereals**
- 8.30 Daytime on Two: Animals of the soil** 10.00 A visit to a dolls' hospital with Roy Hudd 10.15 Maths: plans, perspectives and prisms 10.30 Home Economics: plant food 11.00 Words and pictures 11.17 Music and Dance 11.39 The language of music 12.05 Italian conversation 12.30 A member of parliament's accountability 12.55 Italian version of the Italian Language for Life 1.21 Italian conversation 1.38 A day in the life of an Arabroeth fisherman 2.01 A building site 2.18 Wool traders of the middle ages 2.48 2½ Zag
- 3.00 Cereals**
- 3.10 Women and Sport.** An Open University production that examines society's attitudes to women in sport (r)
- 5.35 News** summary with subtitles
- 5.40 Film: Maverick Queen** (1956) starring Barbara Stanwyck. The first showing on British television for this. Zane Grey, a story of a powerful, attractive woman who won most of the cattle business in Wyoming. Trouble comes her way when Jeff rides into town and Butch and Sundance make an appearance. Directed by Joe Kane
- 6.25 Help!** Vic Taylor goes with the School of Training Workshops.
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CHANNEL 4

- 5.00 Night Beat News.** More comedy from the haplessly inadequate employees of a television news station.
- 5.30 Enthusiasts: A Wasteland, a Wetland and a Wood.** The second programme in the series devoted to people who channel all their energy in one particular direction. Max Nicholson is today's subject. He is chairman of the Ecological Parks Trust, responsible for the two acre site between London Bridge and Tower Bridge that is now urban countryside dedicated to the memory of the 18th-century architect, William Kent. Mr Nicholson is joined by another founder-member of the Ecological Parks Trust, Lynda Cole, and they talk about the background to the setting up of the Trust.
- 6.00 The Minstrel's Harman** is the lucky winner of a television quiz show. His prize is a family membership of a highly exclusive country club but when the family arrive on masse at the club they realise that it is not what they expected.
- 6.30 Flashback: Your Very Good Health** 1945-1950. Part seven, narrated by Sarah Dunant, includes extracts from story films about the Beveridge milk and dole and story films about the re-housing programme. The Rank Organisation's This Modern Age was part of the government's campaign to recruit women into the textile industry while the Central Office of Information's cartoon character, Charlie, learns of about the NHS and its impacts on his family needs.
- 7.00 Channel Four News.**
- 7.50 Comment.** The political spot this week is taken by a Pled Cymru member of parliament.
- 8.00 Brookside.** Davey Jones does a moonlight job taking money, milk and a dog while the fate of ownership of Petra's house lies in the balance.
- 8.30 Diverse Reports.** Current affairs programme which, this week, includes a report by Christopher Hurne on new evidence that an electoral pact is the best hope for Labour and the Alliance.
- 9.00 Film: The Refusal** (1972) starring Tom Waizel. An Austrian-made film based on the true story of Franz Jaegerstetter, a village secessionist living in Nazi Austria in 1943, who decided that a true Christian could not serve in the German Army and refused to enlist when he was called-up. Directed by Axel Corti (English subtitles).
- 10.45 Voices: Our Place in the Natural Order.** Robert Hutchinson, of the Policy Studies Institute chairs a discussion between three philosophers - John Passmore, Stephen Clark and Mary Midgley - on the relationship of the animal world to the human world.
- 11.45 Closedown.**

CHOICE

- redoubtable presence felt by dominating the scene. He plays Roger Quail, an ambitious Tory politician, in what is really part one of a two-part adaptation of the novel by C. P. Snow's best known work, *Corridors of Power*. The story, which follows the rise and fall of Quail as Secretary of State for Defence against the background of the Suez crisis and the nuclear disarmament debate, casts Lewis Eliot, the common link of the serial, as one of Quail's advisors and the serial's confidante. Clever use of movie-toned news of the period coupled with Snow's scabrous observations of political machinations, manifested by the scheming Quail, bring life to a serial that has, at times, been too wordy for its own good.
- Anthony Hopkins joins the cast in tonight's episode of *STRANGERS AND BROTHERS* (BBC 2.25pm) and immediately makes his

Radio 4

- 6.00 News Briefing: Weather.** 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping.
- 6.30 Today.** Including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 8.45 Prayer for the Week. 9.00 Weather. 9.15 Sport. 9.25 Thought for the Day. 9.35 Yesterday's Parliament. 9.57 Weather.
- 9.00 News.**
- 9.05 Midweek: Lobby Purview.** 10.00 News. 10.05 Question Time. From Sussex (r).
- 10.30 Morning Story: 'Destiny' by Jill Morris.** The reader: Elizabeth Proud.
- 10.45 Daily Service.**
- 11.00 News: Travel.** Baker's Dozen. 11.05-11.10 Schools. 11.15 Through My Window. The first of six programmes in which busy people pause to tell us about their lives. The first programme is by Lesley Crowther, the comedian.
- 12.00 News: You and Yours.** Consumer Affairs.
- 12.27 The Bird of Dawning** by John Massfield. A serial in six parts. 12.30-12.35 Weather.
- 1.00 The Bird of Dawning.** 1.05-1.10 The Bird of Dawning. 1.15-1.20 The Bird of Dawning. 1.25-1.30 The Bird of Dawning. 1.35-1.40 The Bird of Dawning. 1.45-1.50 The Bird of Dawning. 1.55-2.00 The Bird of Dawning. 2.05-2.10 The Bird of Dawning. 2.15-2.20 The Bird of Dawning. 2.25-2.30 The Bird of Dawning. 2.35-2.40 The Bird of Dawning. 2.45-2.50 The Bird of Dawning. 2.55-3.00 The Bird of Dawning. 3.05-3.10 The Bird of Dawning. 3.15-3.20 The Bird of Dawning. 3.25-3.30 The Bird of Dawning. 3.35-3.40 The Bird of Dawning. 3.45-3.50 The Bird of Dawning. 3.55-4.00 The Bird of Dawning. 4.05-4.10 The Bird of Dawning. 4.15-4.20 The Bird of Dawning. 4.25-4.30 The Bird of Dawning. 4.35-4.40 The Bird of Dawning. 4.45-4.50 The Bird of Dawning. 4.55-5.00 The Bird of Dawning. 5.05-5.10 The Bird of Dawning. 5.15-5.20 The Bird of Dawning. 5.25-5.30 The Bird of Dawning. 5.35-5.40 The Bird of Dawning. 5.45-5.50 The Bird of Dawning. 5.55-6.00 The Bird of Dawning. 6.05-6.10 The Bird of Dawning. 6.15-6.20 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America 'freezes' role in Mid-East

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, made it clear last night that the United States sees no prospect of leading any further peace initiatives in the Middle East for the foreseeable future.

"We will have to see what happens and be prepared when it comes," he said, reflecting a sense of hopelessness within the Administration about its immediate political role in the region.

"There does not seem to be any immediate opportunity - like this month, this week, perhaps longer - for things to move forward in a genuinely strong way," he added. "Nevertheless, we will continue to be there."

President Reagan's peace initiative of September 1, 1982, is clearly regarded as being on hold. "We have extended a lot of energy to help but primarily it is up to the parties in the region to find their way to security, peace and a better quality of life," Mr Shultz said.

He conceded that criticism by King Hussein of Jordan of US policy in the Middle East had set back the chances of receiving congressional approval of Mr Reagan's request for the supply of stinger shoulder-held missiles and other weapons to Jordan.

He was adamant in his opposition to congressional attempts to order the transfer of the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. President Reagan is also opposing any such move. "It would be very damaging to US interests," Mr Shultz said.

"It involves the old city of Jerusalem, it involves the deeply religious sites and connotations of that city. When you touch that you touch a raw nerve running across the Muslim world, something which is way beyond political matters. It goes into deep religious roots. It is a question we would do well to stay away from."

On the Iran-Iraq war Mr Shultz emphasized that the Americans are no longer alarmed by the threat of Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf. "It will not be possible to cause a genuinely long-term disruption in the flow of oil supplies."

Turning to Central America Mr Shultz appealed to Congress to approve emergency military aid to El Salvador.



Concert pitch: Paul Tortelier rehearsing yesterday with his family for tonight's concert at the Barbican (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

70 years in harmony with Bach

Paul Tortelier, one of the world's great cellists, is 70 today. The occasion is to be marked by a concert at the Barbican in which Mr Tortelier will be joined by his musical family, his daughters, Maria de la Pau (left) a pianist and Pamone (right), a singer, as well as his wife, Mand, who also plays the cello, and his son Yan Pascal, a conductor.

Mr Tortelier, who was born in France, has always retained a special relationship with this country as his first important appearance was in Britain with Sir Thomas Beecham.

He has composed four concertos, a symphony and he specializes in interpreting the works of Bach, with whom he shares a birthday and whose work, he says, "has given us a picture of an ideal society".

Tortelier's dream, page 17

Duke to sell Old Master drawings worth £7m

Continued from page 1

over the valuation of certain drawings, a difference of opinion over the attribution of others made the gap between the two parties yawn to an unbridgeable extent.

The museum is said to have had doubts as to whether the four Leonardo cartoons were from the hand of the master rather than a follower and they had similar doubts over a Raphael "Mercury and Psyche", which some consider the work of a gifted pupil, such as Giulio Romano.

Mr Brian Lang, secretary of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, commented yesterday that the purchase had been seriously considered but the fund had not felt that the price represented value for money for the nation.

He emphasized that the British Museum has been offered the group as a whole without any power to select. The drawings are being sold by the trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement, a trust

whose beneficiaries are the Devonshire family.

The house and its most important contents have already been hived off into a separate charitable trust, the Chatsworth House Trust, under a large lease agreement; a Poussin oil and a larger selection of duplicates from the Chatsworth library were recently sold to provide an endowment fund for the upkeep of the house.

The purpose of the drawings sale has hitherto been spent only in the most hazy terms by the Devonshire family. In a statement yesterday on behalf of the Chatsworth Settlement they described the sale as "part of long-term plans for the redevelopment of the family assets".

Mr P. A. Bostock, speaking from Curry and Co, the family solicitors, said that the trustees considered their assets to be over-invested in works of art and were thus altering the balance of investments.

Sale room, page 2

Radar defence document found in phone box

Continued from page 1

sachussets. The numbers for SRI include offices in San Francisco and Arlington, Virginia.

There are addresses and telephone numbers for officers and officials at five American defence establishments, including the USAF electronics systems development unit at Hanscom air base, Massachusetts.

The other numbers include staff at the Naval Research Laboratory; the Naval Electronics System Command; the Office of Naval Research and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defence for Research and Engineering, all in or near Washington.

They include, according to the Pentagon's telephone directory, staff working on radar, early warning systems and naval warfare. Staff at four British organizations are named: the Ministry of Defence Procurement Executive, the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory near Did-

cot, Oxfordshire, and the main building of the Ministry of Defence, several home telephone numbers are included.

Major Joseph Wagovich, in the office of the Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon, said: "We are not able to provide any detail whatsoever".

The Ministry of Defence in London, where inquiries are being carried out into leaks to newspapers, said: "It is most unfortunate that through the carelessness of somebody who may have been concerned with the project such a list has been left lying around in this fashion".

"Although the list itself does not give away classified information, it does lead to the focusing of attention on a project about which the basic information is classified."

"We will obviously make inquiries, but it will not be a full-scale leak inquiry, just an internal attempt to discover how this list came to be lying about."

Letter from Brussels

Morning after Night of the Long Knives

Under a grey sky, Mrs Thatcher arrived for work promptly at nine yesterday morning in the grey 15-storey office block which serves as the headquarters of the EEC's Council of Ministers.

Down the road, in the elegant residence of the French Ambassador, President Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl were finishing a very friendly breakfast indeed. It was said the French spokesman, "very comforting" that the two had developed such a close and meaningful relationship.

It was the morning after the Night of the Long Knives. Over dinner the previous evening the British Prime Minister had lived up to her "Iron Maiden" image with a vengeance. Leader after leader went reeling back to his hotel at one in the morning, apparently incredulous that anyone could be so uncompromising and still be human.

Signor Benito Craxi, tall and bald under the television lights, gathered the Italian press corps round him in the foyer of his hotel to complain that "Mrs Thatcher says 'No' to everything".

Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, was downstairs sipping whisky and complaining that there could never be an agreement, because Mrs Thatcher had a totally different philosophical outlook to everyone else.

Over in his hotel, Dr Garret FitzGerald, looking even more like a sad bloodhound than usual, was telling reporters that things were much worse than they had ever been, even during the fiasco of the Athens summit.

Meanwhile, at the residence of the United Kingdom representative to the EEC, Mrs Thatcher was going through a businesslike de-briefing of officials before putting in her normal night's sleep in preparation for a hard day's work.

What British news there was of going-on at the working dinner was brought in a "positive and determined" fashion by Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's bluff Yorkshire spokesman. Reports that Mrs Thatcher was inflexible and unrepentant "do not coincide with our view," he said beltingly. He was bored by such reports. He had tested them all before and they were as wrong as ever.

He was still "positive and determined" yesterday morn-

ing, after a further de-briefing from the Prime Minister.

"The reality is that things are moving," he said. "We are used to being called names. We don't call other people names; we just try to get on with it in a constructive spirit." As far as being called names was concerned, "I sometimes quite enjoy it."

Mr Ingham, the epitome of a bulldog at bay, shook his red jowls and defied the assembled journalists of Europe to call him names. They withdrew, instead, to hear his French counterpart, M Michel Vaubelle, immaculate as ever, describing events in true historic style.

News filtered through that Dr Kohl continued to see "no land in sight". He had been particularly impressed by the sight of Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald savaging each other in the argument over milk.

But with France and Britain holding centre stage, the press tended to hover between their rival briefing rooms, surging in and out with the tide of rumour of news. M Vaubelle walked out of a scheduled briefing when he discovered that Mr Ingham had booked one at the same time.

Later, the French spokesman told the waiting press anxious for any crumbs of information, that President Mitterrand had found time to mention his idea for a project to build a European space station.

But the jollity masked the fact that no information at all was seeping out from the closed doors. British briefings depended on notes written by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, living up to the second part of his title.

The notes were very comprehensive, a Foreign Office aide confirmed, but they were largely illegible. "Fortunately, we have people skilled in Oriental languages capable of deciphering them," the man from the FO said proudly.

And, as the Europeans became more and more agitated about what was going on, American observers wandered around among the television cameras and the pencil-chewing armies, shaking their heads in wonder. "Hell," one said. "We can lose more money on the New York subway overnight than these guys are arguing about."

Ian Murray

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen attends a service at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, to mark its centenary, 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of World Wildlife Fund, international and vice-president of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, launches the WWF/JUN Plants Campaign at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 11.5.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh give a reception at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology, 6.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, dines with the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Headquarters Mess, Millbank, 7.15.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, president, Ladies Guild of the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, attends a meeting at Grosvenor Crescent, London, 11.

The Duke of Kent visits Davy McKee Ltd, the Combined Cadet Force, Prince of Wales Road, 12.50; and later visits Endcliffe Hall, 3.30. The Duke of Kent attends Cutlers' Feast, Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, 6.35.

Paintings by Eona Aitken and Robert Gifford, Macaulay Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr, Mon to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun (until April 9).

Graham Sutherland in Pembroke: Transformations from Nature by Royal Scottish Academy, The Mount, Edinburgh: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until April 11).

Exhibitions in progress
Coin Thomas retrospective exhibition, Arragon, Gallery, 21 Castle Street, Aberdeen: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Thu 10 to 8 closed Sun (until March 28).

Figures on a set - paintings and drawings by Rowan Granger of people at work on the independent television series *Robin of Sherwood*. Cooper's Hall, Theatre Royal, King Street, Bristol: Mon to Sat 10 to 10.30 (closing time varies with times of performances at the theatre) closed Sun (until Apr 7).

Lincolnshire Treasures, Real Fine Photographs exhibition and Lincolnshire and South Humberside Artists' Society Spring Exhibition, Usher, Lincoln Road, Lincoln: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Friday (until June 21).

Ten Years Work, Susan Hillier, Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow: Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (until Apr 7).

Once upon a time... Sculpture installation by Ronald Martin, Meadowplace Gallery, 10 Victoria Road, Dundee: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (until Apr 7).

A Roving Eye: a miscellany of works on loan from private collections: Pallant House Gallery, 9 North Pallant, Chichester: Tues to Sat 10 to 5.00pm (until March 24). Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art, City Art Centre, 2 Market St, Edinburgh, closed Sundays (until April 6).

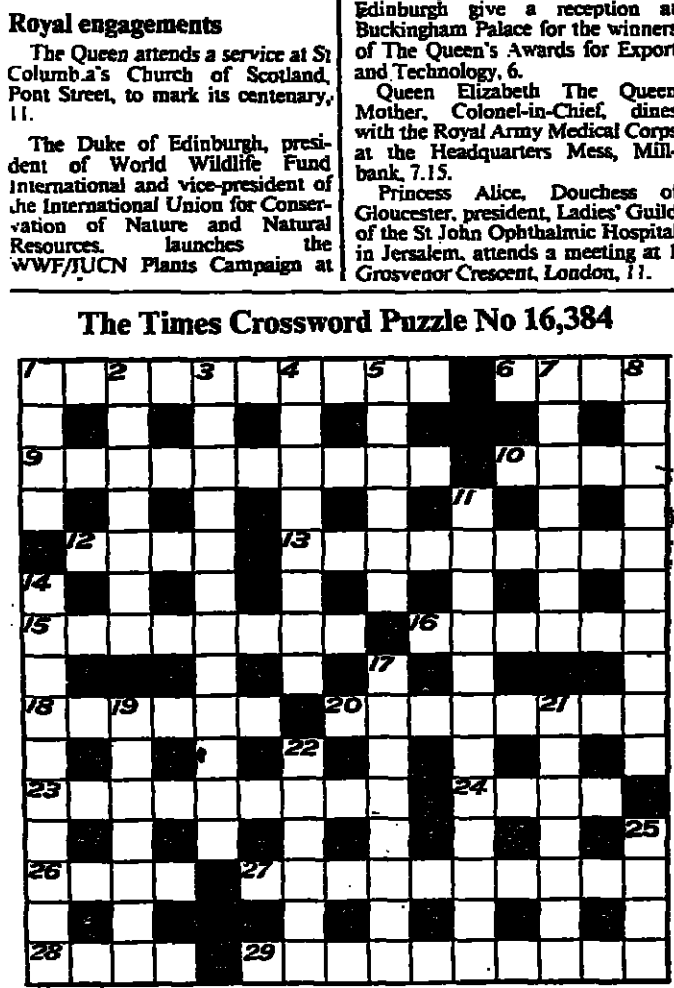
Recital by Charles Tomlinson, and Raymond Warren, University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road, 1.15.

Concert by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

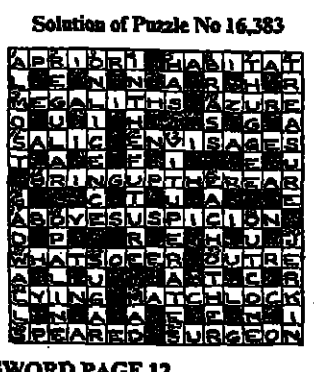
Recital by Barthold Kuijken (flute) and Johann Sonleitner (harpichord), Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, 7.30.

Recital by Vovka Ashkenazy, County Museum, Dorchester, Dorset, 8.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,384



- ACROSS
- 1 Toot gets a car lift after some grumbling (10).
 - 6 Look for sound Indian (4).
 - 9 May get hurt having a game (10).
 - 10 Is this shell shock? (4).
 - 12 A chain dance, say (4).
 - 13 Heated chamber prepared for this sort of bird (4-5).
 - 14 Caught in drunken kind of reel (8).
 - 16 In Ohio it gets a new blade daily (6).
 - 18 Tailor's turnover is almost a disaster (6).
 - 20 Fashionable and well-known evil (8).
 - 23 The cost of this material can be damaging (9).
 - 24 The genie that is invisible provides it (4).
 - 26 The clutch does smatch (4).
 - 27 ... backward Private Orford shows dullness (10).
 - 28 Play she was badly hurt (4).
 - 29 The best man to direct the ushers (10).
- DOWN
- 1 Central place of honour, you might say (4).
 - 2 Words of encouragement to Middle School after the match (5-7).
 - 3 As an introduction, make arrangement to let me in early (12).
 - 4 Emotion troubling Jael at first (8).
 - 5 We're told to pick out the broken glass (6).
 - 7 Separate the contacts, also tie in knots (7).
 - 8 Its rider has nothing else in mind (5-5).
 - 11 Perhaps a geriatric OAP loses right to claim for free speech (12).
 - 14 He can always find signs of our behaviour (10).
 - 15 This sort of parking is unfair (3-5).
 - 19 Ringing by internal lines to Kent terminals (7).
 - 21 Eccentric in plain clothes (3-4).
 - 22 Fiddle with knot on this accessory (3-3).
 - 25 Leader who was killed in Anzures (4).



CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

New books - hardback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Elemental Things, The Poetry of Hugh MacDiarmid, by Harvey Oxenham (Edinburgh University Press, £15).
Julius Caesar, edited by Arthur Humphreys; *Titus Andronicus*, edited by Eugene M. Wialt; *The Oxford Shakespeare series*, (Oxford, £12.50, paperback, £2.95).
Portable Utopia, Glasgow and the United States 1620-1920, by Bernard Aspinwall (Overseas University Press, £15.50).
Roman Bath Discovered, by Barry Cunliffe (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £14.94).
Scottish Labour Leaders 1918-1938, A Biographical Dictionary, edited by Dr William Knox (Mansel Press, £20).
The Black Death, Natural and Human Disaster in Medieval Europe, by Robert S. Gottfried (Faber, £9.95).
The Languages of Britain, by Glanville Price (Edward Arnold, £16.50).
The National Trust Guide, revised and edited by Rosemary Jockes (Cape, £12.95).
The Weimar Years, A Culture Cut Short, by John Wilentz (Thames & Hudson, £12.95).
Wetness, by Donald Posner (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20).

Anniversaries

Births: Jehann Sebastian Bach, Eisenbach, Germany, 1685; Jean-Baptiste Fourier, mathematician, Auxerre, France, 1768; Benito Juarez, president of Mexico 1867-72, San Pablo Guelatino, Oaxaca, Mexico, 1806; Florenz Ziegfeld, theatrical producer, Chicago, 1867; Hans Holbein, painter, Weissenberg, Germany, 1480; Albert Chevalier, music hall entertainer and composer (among his songs, *My Old Dutch*), London, 1861.
Deaths: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1533-36, burned at the stake, Oxford, 1556; Robert Southey, Keswick, Cumbria, 1843.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on fuel costs and poverty.
Lords (2.30): Debates on the Highlands and Islands; nuclear war; and on the prison service.

Separation and divorce

The Inland Revenue has published a new free leaflet called *Income Tax - Separation and Divorce* available from your nearest tax office or PAYE enquiry office. It deals with many of the tax queries that may occur straightaway and some that may not. Address in telephone directory under Inland Revenue.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells
Australia \$	1.58	1.59
Austria Sch	27.85	26.25
Belgium Fr	82.50	78.50
Canada \$	1.29	1.32
Denmark Kr	14.32	13.62
Finland Mk	5.24	5.17
France Fr	3.50	3.72
Germany DM	162.00	152.00
Greece Dr	11.65	11.05
Hongkong \$	1.28	1.22
Italy Lira	2410.00	2310.00
Japan Yen	147	147
Netherlands Gld	1.37	1.42
Norway Kr	11.37	10.77
Portugal Esc	196.90	186.00
South Africa R	1.96	1.82
Spain Ptas	220.50	211.50
Sweden Kr	11.70	11.10
Switzerland Fr	5.24	5.07
USA \$	1.43	1.43
Yugoslavia Dnr	185.00	176.00

London: The FT index closed up 14.5 at 897.6.

Retail Price Index 344.00.

Roads

Midlands: M1: Contraflow between junctions 16 (Northampton) and 18 (Rugby). A6: Temporary signals at Marlborough Bath. A12: Contraflow at Banbury, on Ipswich to Colchester Road, Suffolk.
Wales and West: A4044: Northbound lane restrictions at Haymarket, Bristol, Avon. A39: Single lane traffic, temporary traffic signals, between Bideford and Lynton, New Road, Bideford. A377: Temporary traffic lights between Exeter and Barnstaple at Bonhay Road, Exeter.
The North: A628: Improvement works to the Thurston River Bridge, single lane traffic controlled by traffic lights, South Yorkshire. A534: Sewer laying, single lane traffic, traffic lights, delays on Crews Road, Wintley, Sandbach. A68: Roadworks eight miles north-east of Bellingham.

The papers

The Daily Mirror says that Mr John Selwyn Gummer, pipe-smoking chairman of the Tory Party, has chastised MPs who questioned Mark Thatcher's business activities. He accused them of "the politics of the gutter". They have denounced, he went on to "the personal attack and the political smear".
Forget that those MPs include Mr Edward Heath and Mr Peter Shore, bigger politicians than a dozen Gummerts could be. Forget that his party has a proven record of smears, personal and political, going back 60 years. Forget that the young Tories accuse Mr Gummer's Central Office of "orchestrating attacks on the BBC" and "passing on leaking information to the Daily Mail". Forget, even, that several loyal Tory newspapers and commentators are showing unease about young Mr Thatcher.

Just remember that Mr Gummer gives his station in life to Mrs Thatcher, she made him and she can unmake him. Remember he was given an extra £5,000 a year as a minor minister in the Government after being appointed Tory chairman. And then wonder whether charges about the politics of the gutter matter a damn when they come from someone who owes his advance to the politics of the poodle parlour.

Weather forecast

A frontal trough near NW Britain will move SE across the N and W while weakening.

6am to midnight

London, SE, Can S, Can N, E, SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, mainly dry, a few sunny intervals, wind E light becoming S light, max temp 6C (48F).
Wales, NW, Scotland, NE Scotland, Highlands, Moors, Firth, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Cloudy, occasional rain later, snow on hills, wind SE becoming S light, max temp 5C (41F).
Wales and West: A4044: Northbound lane restrictions at Haymarket, Bristol, Avon. A39: Single lane traffic, temporary traffic signals, between Bideford and Lynton, New Road, Bideford. A377: Temporary traffic lights between Exeter and Barnstaple at Bonhay Road, Exeter.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind light to moderate, sea slight. S Georgia Channel: Wind light and variable becoming moderate W, rain later. Sea smooth. Irish Sea: Wind light and variable becoming moderate S, rain later, sea smooth.

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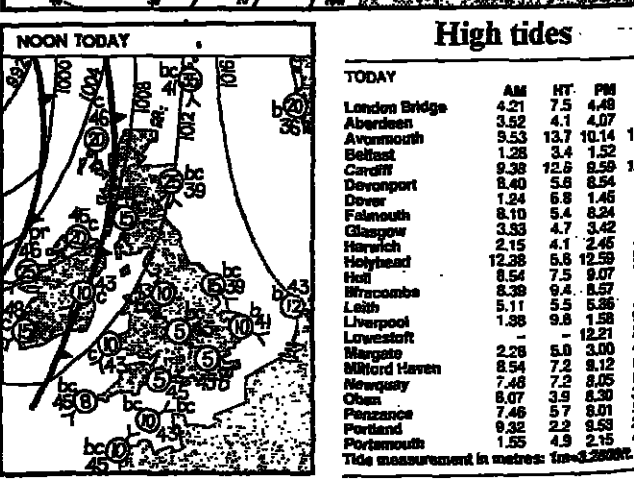
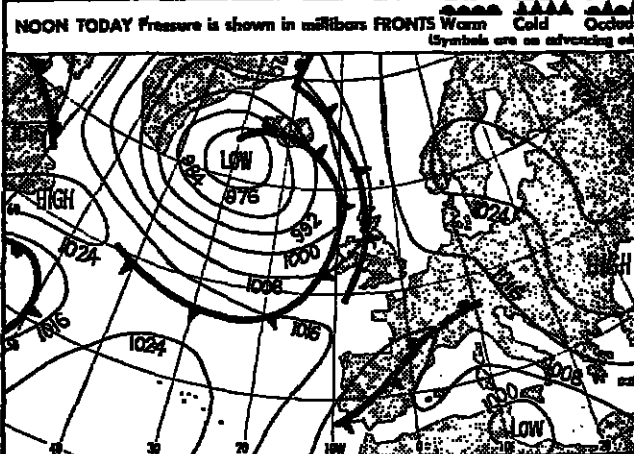
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High tides

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	4.21	7.5
Aberdeen	3.52	4.1
Abermouth	3.53	12.7
Belfast	1.28	3.4
Cardiff	9.38	12.9
Cardigan	9.38	12.9
Dover	1.10	6.8
Falmouth	8.10	5.4
Glasgow	8.39	5.1
Hull	2.15	4.1
Leamington	8.58	12.9